

異世界はスマートフォンとともに。

冬原パトラ Illustration ■ 兎塚エイジ

8



In a Different World with a Smartphone

Isekai wa Smartphone to Tomoni

Book 8

by Fuyuhara Patora

[Novel Updates](#)

Translator: [Raising the Dead](#)

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Illustrations





「ひゃあっ! ちょ、この、離さないよっ!」
「きゃあああああああっ!?!」

悲鳴に振り向くと、エルゼとルーも逆さ吊りの仲間入りをしていた。

異世界はスマートフォンとともに。
メカ設定資料集

■白騎士
《シャインカウント》



開発者：レジナ・バビロン
(改良はヒロセツタ)

管理責任者：フレドモニカ
搭乗者：レイン

整備責任者：ヒロセツタ

所属：ブリュンヒルド公国

全高：16.6m 重量：7.7t 乗員人数：1人

武装：標準装備として剣《ソード》、追加装備として盾《シールド》、戦棍《メイス》、
戦槌《バトルハンマー》、突撃槍《ランス》、戦矛《ハルバード》、
戦斧《バトルアックス》など。

対フレイズ用決戦兵器、フレームギアの一体。指揮官機・黒騎士《ナイトバロン》の改良型。
ブリュンヒルド騎士団団長になったレインのために造られた機体。ブリュンヒルド騎士団の旗機である。
外装を変えただけで、機体能力は黒騎士《ナイトバロン》とほぼ変わらない。

Arc 22: If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

Chapter 181: The East-West alliance, and Skating

After The Restia Knight Kingdom had joined the western alliance, the name [Western Alliance] was changed to the [East-West Alliance]. And today, Hilda's big brother, who is also the new King of Restia Kingdom, Holy Knight-King Reinhardt is being welcomed at the meeting.

"I may be immature due to being inexperienced, but please treat me well"
"Oh well. Let's set aside the formal greetings. This is a place where everyone shares their opinions, confer and help each other out equally"

The Pope gently smiles at the Knight King who is bowing courteously. This place has somehow become an activity club for kings. Well, I think that's fine because they properly discuss the issues that need to be addressed.

"I am also a new King myself, so best regards to you too, King of Restia"
"Thank you very much, King of Rynie"

The Kings of Rynie and Restia firmly shake hands as fellow new young kings. They are likely to learn a lot from each other as the new kings. I am also a new king myself, but I don't think that I can be a reference in different meanings.

"I thought about it with Restia too, but..... I have heard it, Touya-dono. You have enlisted the tribes of the Great Forest Sea as your allies, haven't you?"

His Majesty the King of Misumido says that when I am listening to the two. The information does travel fast, I suppose. Well, Misumido has a lot of beastmen, and the news should have transmitted due to what seems to be their exchange with the tribes in the Great Forest Sea.

"Rather than saying that I have enlisted them as allies, the outcome can just be interpreted as their gratitude after I assisted them. I didn't particularly plan to have them as such"

For the time being, I tell them what had happened in the Great Forest Sea. It is not like there is anything that I particularly need to hide.

After that, the talks proceed to the situation of the refugees that have flowed from Yuuron, the Frame Gears being rented to deal with impassable highways

due to landslides. Then, after that line of talk was finished, everyone dragged the Knight King Reinhardt to the stadium right away. There's a baseball game between the Rifurisu Empire and the Regulus Empire in a name of it being a welcome game to be held today.

As the escorting soldiers for each nation were going to the stadium in groups, an idea hit me for a moment, and I called out to Her Eminence the Ramisshu Pope. I approached and secretly whispered to her.

"Your Eminence..... As a matter of fact, there are currently two human (they tentatively changed into humans, therefore it is [Two people]) deities residing in this castle. Would you like to meet them?"

"Eh!?"

I took her Eminence the Pope who was continuously nodding while being surprised along to the seats where Karen-nee-san and Moroha-nee-san were having tea. I introduced her Eminence the Pope to the two, and then I introduced the two to her who was overly tensed.

"They are my older sisters..... even if they are called such, they are the Love Goddess-sama and the Sword Goddess-sama"

"I feel kinda bad when Touya-kun adds -sama ~noyo....."

"That's right. It feels somewhat restless, you know. Aaah, listen, you shouldn't humble yourself so much. Take it easier, more casual"

Her Eminence the Pope, who tried to prostrate herself on the floor, was made to stand up and directed towards the table by my older sisters. After this and that, all of them seemed to enjoy their talk as her Eminence the Pope asked a lot of questions without hesitating about things such as Kami-sama, the world of gods and so on, and my big sisters answered her questions while lightly chewing on the cookies in their hands. As expected of fellow women, I guess they open their hearts to each other more freely?

Isn't this also an interference with the human world? But even if I think of that, the so-called [The Power of God] is not being used, so I guess it should be fine. Though this situation looks strange, it can also be interpreted as one receiving either an oracle or god's teachings. The subject soon turned to grumblings like [the god of commerce is stingy] or [the god of liquor quarrels

with anything regarding liquor].

I entrust her Eminence the Pope to the two of them and transfer to the stadium.

The people in the stadium are excited about the once-a-month championship game. I can see a considerable number of people here and there who apparently came not only from our country but also from Rifurisu and Regulus as well. The popcorn sellers and beer sellers seem busy running in between the audience seats. The audience is glad about how the game is progressing. However, I didn't think it would be accepted this far.

At the VIP seats, the Knight King of Restia has already become captive of baseball and was watching the game as if devouring it. Ah~ the same thing happened during the time with the King of Rynie..... Sometimes, he asks the King of Rynie who is sitting next to him while nodding to the neighbor's responses.

Is it because both of them are new kings? It seems they have already become good friends. If possible, I would like if they become best friends like the King of Belfast and the Monarch of Rifurisu.

If the first princess of Rifurisu saw this scenario, she would definitely have a nosebleed while writing some suspicious book. Both Princes (They're Kings though) are handsome men on white horses..... Shit. Even though I have many fiancées, I'm still jealous of handsome men. Errr.

While I was becoming sullen, a loud crack of the bat suddenly erupts and cheers wrap the stadium. A player from Regulus side has shot a home run. As expected, the audience favors the players who make such shots.

The Knight King of Restia also got excited and stood up. Conversely, the Monarch of Rifurisu and his best friend, the King of Belfast, look beaten while having a regrettable face.

In any case, I'm glad everybody seems to be getting along well. Shall I give a baseball kit to the Knight King as a present when he goes back home?

The next day, I woke up with too much cold. It was a snowscape all over when I looked outside the window.

There's snow and it has fairly fallen. It wasn't to the extent of being called "heavy snow" but it seems not less than 10 cm of snow has piled up.

Training can't be done in such circumstances, so everyone from the knight order is removing the snow from the barracks and training grounds. I was thinking whether it would be fine to melt the snow with fire attribute magic, but I was told that the area around will be flooded. I suppose that's natural.

When I go towards the town for inspection, the adults were shoveling the snow in front of their houses like the knights, and the children were playing something similar to a snowball fight.

Since they invited me to play, I decided to make a simple sleigh from empty boxes and planks, and a slope with shoveled snow running downhill. While being in high spirits, we started to slide on sleighs.

When I parted with the children and went out to the highway, I noticed that the road is in a state wherein I can't tell where it is due to the thick snow. I wonder, won't peddlers not be able to come here for a while because of this? Well, it should melt in two or three days anyway.

Still, it is a long-awaited snow. I then head towards the stadium while thinking whether I can do something. Upon reaching that place, I flatten the mound of snow that has piled over and freeze it to make something similar to a rink.

"Un, it has frozen quite smoothly hasn't it!?"

The moment I take one step inside the rink, my leg slips, and I fall down splendidly. Damn it! Is this the curse on me for using Slip up until now!? Ooouch.

"What are you doing?"

It seems they have come to shovel the snow at the stadium, I was perfectly seen by Logan-san and a bunch of the knights with shovels in their hands. Say something if you have come here.....

"Well, I thought of making a rink for skating"

"Suketo?"

"Huh? Is there nothing like this here? How should I put it? Skating is a form of running while attaching a blade on the soles of the feet?"

"Ah, is it a gliding technique? Now that you mentioned it, I heard that in the Elfrau Kingdom to the north, they slide on frozen canals during winter"

Is that a way of moving rather than something done for fun? It certainly seems faster traveling that way during winter. I wonder, don't they enjoy it when they slide?

For now, I try making a blade and attaching it at the shoe's soles. I stepped into the rink and smoothly glided for a while.

I heard the voices exclaiming "Ooh~", but it's not a big deal..... I glide for several laps and then try to rotate for a little bit. Don't make a light of me who grew in the northern part of the country, okay? Though I'm sensitive to the cold since I lived close to the Pacific Ocean's side.

I make more blades and hand them to Logan-san and the rest. The blades are not the type that is integrated into the shoes, but rather the type which is attached to them. They timidly got into the rink and fell in fascinating ways. Ku-ku-ku. With this, they can't laugh at me now who fell before.



However, everyone started to slide normally after a while. Aren't they quickly getting used to it!? The people over here have good reflexes, don't they.....

Before long, people from the city came too and started to watch us who were gliding. Using this opportunity, I make blades for them as well and let them

glide freely. I have made extras in advance since it will be troublesome to hand them one by one. I also made sure that they can use them as they like.

"Muu.....。 Why did it turn like this.....?"

I groan while sitting on a bench inside the stadium. A short time later since then, the standing out figures of several couples and spouses could be seen gliding on the rink. This place has completely become a lovey-dovey spot.

The singles, who weren't been able to stay, left the rink and the couples who received their blades went up to the rink. What a very sad cycle.

There were also those brave souls among the singles that stayed who sharpened their skills in gliding without breaking their hearts and were trying to invite women.

What a strange dating spot I ended up making. Though children are genuinely enjoying it and gliding in it.

A woman who can't glide awaits on the side of the wall and a man who can slide calls out to her. Before long, they join hands and start to glide, this scene has repeated itself several times already. Oi-oi, is this a flirting?
(TLC: flirting refers to this [Nampa](#). For the lack of better word, we are leaving it like this for now)

Or how should I say this? Can it be like that? Aren't they boldly joining hands under the reason of teaching someone to skate? Definitely, there isn't anyone who won't use this method.

Do the women know of this as well? I saw people here and there pretending not to be able to glide on purpose. Well, some things will be better left unsaid, right?

"Just when I was thinking that it was somehow noisy, it was you, Touya-san, after all, right?"

"I am a little concerned about "after all" part, but well, you are not wrong"

I let what the words of Yumina, who came here before I noticed, wash away. Though I don't think that I am the ringleader that causes commotions all the time.

Oh well, it's fine. I give Yumina the blades as well. With this, I also have a partner and can step into the rink without any reservation.

"Shall we glide then, honorable princess?"

".....Is this safe?"

I lead Yumina, who is a little scared from the anxiety of gliding for the first time, and step into the rink. We glide bit by bit while connecting our hands so that she won't fall over. Even though she was staggering, did she gradually get used to it? She began gliding smoothly soon. Really, aren't the people here having way too good reflexes? No, our world is too convenient. I wonder if we degenerated in various ways.

There's no way I wouldn't have known at that time that this scenario would become a standard in Brunhild Dukedom.

Chapter 182: The Demon Country and the Puzzle

"So you say that a Babylon's ruins have been discovered? Where?"

[Yes. It's at the center of the demon kingdom Zenoasu. In its mountain region]

I brood a little bit after hearing Kougyoku's report.

Demon Kingdom Zenoasu, is it? It's a kingdom which closed its borders and where demonkins live. I heard that country is being ruled by a person they call a "Maou" and which doesn't have a desire to have that much connection with other countries. It is also said that the environment there is severe thanks to the special properties of the land itself. Various species live there and magic beasts and their subspecies are still rampaging a great deal. They say it's a terrifying land.

Should I abruptly go to that kingdom that's entirely unknown....? For the sake of confirming my concern a bit, I have summoned the demonkins serving in our household's knights order.

"You are asking about Zenoasu?"

The one I have summoned is a youth from the vampire tribe with pointed ears, red eyes, and pale skin. His name is Rusheed and he is an oddball in such a way that he is not good with blood even if he's a vampire. According to him, blood is purely an indulgence and is apparently not entirely necessary in order to live.

This guy has totally destroyed my image of vampires. To start with, they are cool with sunlight, and they eat garlic cuisine if it's their preference. They are calm in front of crosses and silver weapons aren't necessarily needed to kill them. They don't change into bats and more than anything else, they are also weak with blood.

It seems that aforementioned dislike of blood isn't a personal trait, but is rather a general trait of the vampires of this world. Ah, transforming someone into a vampire after, say, that person's blood is completely sucked out doesn't

happen here as well.

Vampires do have a night vision, superhuman strength, high regeneration and other useful abilities, but it doesn't quite make sense to me. I wonder, is it because of this youth's unreliable image?

Furthermore, the vampire clan is considered to be one of the more dignified households in Zenoasu, so I summoned him while thinking whether he knows something. It's a riddle to me why he who had been born in such a clan with high position came to our household. At the time of the interview, he said that that he wanted to become independent.

"Are there no humans in Zenoasu besides demonkins?"

"No. Although they are a minority, there are humans and demihumans living there normally. Just because the country doesn't want to proactively involve itself with the other countries doesn't mean that the country is particularly closed to foreigners. However, there are various hardships involved with living there, so there are only a few of them"

"Hardships ? Like what?"

"First of all, there are extreme atmosphere changes, you see. If I compare the hotness of midday to that of midsummer, then the evenings feel intensively cold similar to when there's winter. Second, magic beasts are numerous, and the possibility to be attacked springs up just as you step outside from the town. Finally, it is about the meals. There may be not that many things that are edible for humans. Do you want to eat things like slime jelly or orc meat?"

Are you saying that there are orcs? The pigmen. They are fellows that have a human body but with a head of a pig that looks like Zhū Bājiè. Are they eating those !? Well, it might taste like pork, but still! They should eat ordinary pigs!

And there's the aforementioned slime jelly too..... Yep, sounds sickening. I suppose there is a vastly huge difference in food culture between them and me.....

I tried asking whether there is slightly less objectionable food there, but things like "mini-worm soup" and "grilled giant bat" came up. No good, no good, no good. Those are no good for me. Okay. Should ever I eat those, the visual aspect may be hopeless even if the food itself may be deliciously cooked.

"It took quite a while for me to get completely accustomed to that meal too..... Though there is cuisine that I occasionally want to eat as well"

Rusheed floats a bitter smile after saying this. Well, I can agree that it is hard to lose the so-called "hometown flavor".

Be that as it may, there shouldn't be any problems if it isn't strange for humans to be in Zenoasu. Rather, let's sneak into it, go to the ruins of Babylon and take it. Should I be found, it will be fine if I call myself the third son of a poor vassal or something. Though I cannot act violently. There is no shogun there either.

Okay, shall I try going there for the time being? It is a shame, but it seems that Rusheed hasn't traveled in the neighborhood of those ruins, so I decide to fly there by using [Fly] after transferring to Yuuron.

I have decided to ask everyone to wait in the castle since I will go there with [Fly] this time as well. When I tried to choose someone from Kohaku's group to take along so that I could make contact in case something happens, they almost broke into a fight and it was really hard to get them to stop.

Thanks to the [Lottery] which Yumina made by hand, it was decided to take Kohaku along. We then transferred with [Gate] to Yuuron where we had fought against Fureizu a while ago.

That place is still a wasteland same as how it has been left before. Since I have no business here, I spring into the sky and fly to the direction of Zenoasu with [Fly] at once after making Kohaku float with [Levitation].

I have made us transparent with [Invisible] in advance because it will be troublesome if I am seen here.

As we entered the skies of Zenoasu, there was someone in front of us flying in our direction for some reason. While I dropped my speed and continued inquiring about them, I noticed that they seem to be a pair of demonkins whose upper half is that of a woman and whose arms and lower body are that of a bird.

[Those are Harpies. It's said that the talons on their lower halves are

considerably powerful that it can kill even a bear. They shouldn't do anything unless we challenge them]

It's just as Kohaku have said. The pair of harpies pass us by without doing anything and fly away. Though it's unlikely that they have seen anyone like us before. After I am done deploying a magic barrier, I must make their scent disappear as well.

Those were surely not magic beasts, but demonkins, right. Apparently, those called demonkins are people who are close to humans and capable of mutual understanding even if that borderline is murky. That's the basics. It has been decided that the likes of Dullahan, who are incapable of mutual understanding even though they are close to humans, and the likes of unicorns, who are far distant from having a human form even though they are capable of understanding each other, are magic beasts. Though I don't understand that delicate line.

"I suppose that we should take care for now just in case. There seem to be unknown magic beasts here as well "

Once again we fly to our destination. When I look down, there were wastelands, rocky mountains, and dense forests spreading out. Now I am certain that living here is a great deal.

Though there are locations that more or less resemble towns, it appears that the soil hasn't been leveled very much.

"It pretty much feels like a savage land. Though I think it will be different if we go to the royal capital"

[It seems that the density of the magic elements is strong and the magic beasts are numerous. This place looks difficult for people to live in. Though it's nothing for species possessing strong bodies like demonkins.....]

In a certain sense, this place has become a country that definitely suits demonkins to the strictest sense.

Nevertheless, it surely is hot here. Does this place even have winter? The sun is fully exposed in its dazzle. It feels like the sunlight is somehow getting more powerful just by being in those skies. I wonder, does it have anything to do with the density of magic elements here?

My coat has a heat-resistant property, so I should be okay in that regard.

As I continue flying while gazing down below, something is once again flying from the opposite side. Are that harpies again?

No, it's a bird. It looks like a blue condor. That's got to be Kougyoku's familiar.

The condor has come flying in order to guide us. Before long, we began approaching a mountain area, and the bird guided us to the valley in its corner.

"Is that....."

Being caught in between the rocky mountains, the ruins looked like a triumphal arc.

After we descend to the ground, I try examining the arc's material, and it does resemble the same material which the ruins of Babylon are made with. I suppose this is a success.

The height of the arc is about three meters. When I tried entering it, there was a six-mat room inside with some letters engraved into the wall. There are of five different objects similar to polygons lined up vertically on the left side.

At the center, there is only one stone pillar which has the height up to the waist. A fire-attribute magic stone is shining above it. It's a cavity..... Or rather, it looks like a Hokora. Everything around it is made of the usual marble-like material though.

(TL: hokora – mini shinto shrine for offerings

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokora>)

"Mmn? It is different from others thus far.... What is the meaning of this?"

For now, I pour magic power with fire-attribute into the stone pillar in front of me. Upon doing that, I heard a sound similar to buzzing as if I did something wrong. Mmm? It sounds completely like the "miss" sound you get at quiz shows. Is it saying that I have to do something different? That my solution is incorrect?

"As I thought. Are those polygons and letters on the wall a hint? Does that mean that those are letters of an ancient civilization? [Reading/Ancient Magic Language]"

With the magic being invoked, it becomes possible to understand the letters carved into the wall.

[Line up the figures on the right in the correct order from the top. There's no need to actually sort them. Just imagine it in your head, it will be fine as long as the magic stone is touched and magic power is poured in it]



Illust. ねこたま。

What the hell is that? A quiz? By “figures”, does it mean those five circle and triangle-like polygons next to it?

A square, a half-moon, a star, a circle and a triangle are lined up starting from the top. There are small dots in each of their centers. Five, three, one, four, and two of those stars are struck into them.

"If those dots in the center are the lineup order.... It shouldn't be that simple, right?"

Nevertheless, I sort those shapes (star, triangle, half-moon, circle, square) in my head and pour magic power into the stone pillar. However, the buzzing sound was made again, thus making it an incorrect solution. Well, I have thought it would be like this.

"Hmm..... Ah, is that maybe, a number of straight sides?"

The circle has zero lines, the half-moon has one line, the triangle has three lines, the square has four lines and the star has five lines. There is no polygon that can render two straight lines, so..... Eh?

If the half-moon is excluded, won't it be fine to have a figure divided into four parts like a yen to get two lines?

For now, I try sorting it in order of circle, half-moon, triangle, square, star.

Buzzing. Wrong solution.

"As I thought. Does it have something to do with those dots?"

[What if those shapes represent different things?]

"Hmm.... Circle..... If that's the [Sun], then this half-moon should be the [Moon]. If the star is the [Star] as implied, then..... Are they describing some heavenly body? In that case, what do the “triangle” and the “square” mean? "

By arranging them from the top..... Are they lining up in order of their distance to the ground? In that case, the most distant is [Star], then [Sun], and then [Moon]..... The triangle is [House], and the square is [Ground]? I try lining them up in that order.

Buzzing.

"Kuuu. Mmmm..... I thought as much. The dots in the center are the hints,

but...."

Since then, the polygons and I have been glaring at each other for some time now. It returned into continuing with the trial and error. And so, several minutes have passed.

Ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong.

"GIVE ME A BREAK ALREADY ! ! "

[L~ Lord! I understand your feelings, but please calm down !]

rumbling sound..... Though I considered landing a kick on the wall into the polygons which are sliding to the side were carved in, I stopped on the verge of doing it because Kohaku clung to me.

"So THAT's the answer !? What's with this question!! "

[Well, I agree with Lord, but....]

Kohaku shows a cramped smile. The answer to the question from before, that is,

[There are no shapes to the right]

That's it. Doesn't that make me sound dull!? That's right, the polygons were placed to the left side, but still! Doesn't that make it anything besides [riddle] ?!

As I calm my feelings down and reach the next room, it has similar letters carved in its wall and there is a stone pillar with a blue magic stone inserted in it. Are we doing it again ?!

Chapter 183: The Riddle and "Library"

[There are eight coins and a single scale. However, only one is a counterfeit among those coins. The forged coin is just a little bit lighter than the real thing, and it's possible to ascertain which is the fake one or which is the real one immediately with the weighing scales. The question is then, what is the least number of measurements necessary to find that forged coin? Furthermore, if you give an incorrect answer, you will be compulsory returned to the entrance]

This one is a genuine riddle, isn't it? Well, it does look normal.

It is a problem one can understand if one thinks about it a for short while. The right answer is..... No..... Wait a moment.

I pour magic power with water attribute as I reconsider the answer.

Ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong.

Just as I've thought! Its true character is difficult..... I glare at the wall that is rumbling as it opens.

[Lord, what is the answer this time?]

Kohaku asks me. N? Aah, haven't you understood it after it came to your mind?

"If you normally think about it, how many measurements do you think it would take? "

[The first one is to weigh four coins on both sides of the scales. The second one is to weigh the four coins from the lighter side. We divide those by two and place them on the scales once again. The third and the last measurement would be among the two coins left. The lighter one will be the forged coin. I believe it will take 3 measurements]

"You might say that's right. However, if you place three coins on both sides of the scales and weigh them and they are balanced, it means that one of the remaining two coins is a forged coin, therefore it will take two measurements. If they are not balanced, you place one coin on each side of the scales from among those that were lighter. If they are balanced, the remaining coin would

be a forged coin and if there are not balanced, the forged coin would be the lighter one among those two. It will take two measurements either way. When speaking in general, that's the correct answer"

In general, that is.

[Does Lord imply it won't take even two measurements?]

"The answer is that it will take "one" measurement. You take two coins among those eight, and, [If you are lucky] then when you use the scales to measure them, you will be able to find it with a single measurement, right?"

[Saying "if you are lucky".....]

"The question didn't designate things like [certainty] or [single try], right? It's a question asking to answer with the least number of times the scales need to be used "

Those really are the ruins of Babylon. This question is nasty. It reflects the thinking of that professor. Considering my long-time association with her, I somehow start to understand her thinking.... although I feel somewhat reluctant to admit it.... It feels like I am being covered in filth.

=====
Scene-
Change=====

And after that,

[By abiding the rules of the following calculation equations, derive the answer. Please answer with the number which is applicable for "□"]

$36=1$
 $108=3$
 $2160=2$
 $10800=\square$

As I encounter such a comparatively upfront question, I have some doubts whether there is some hidden trick to it.

In the end, there was no trick to it. The answer was a simple [5].

Either way, this is not a particular type of puzzle, but a regular riddle. Though it's definitely not hard, It would be troublesome to be sent back to the entrance

if I answered those wrong. The wall is closing again, and the riddle changes into a new one. When I briefly look up,

[There are two magic ropes which cannot be cut and when either one is ignited from one side, it will take one hour for that rope to burn out. What's the best way to accurately measure 45 minutes without preserving any rope?]

[As the man was about to prepare four fish for an evening meal, three cats came by while holding one fish each and ran away. Though there are four members in man's family, each one was able to eat one fish during an evening meal without any problem. How?]

[There are 27 gold in the bag. If three adventurers divide them equally, and yet there are at least 5 coins remaining in the bag, what's the maximum amount one person is able to get?]

Typical riddles. Since I don't want to return, even as I choose the answer, I reconsider it once more, wondering whether I have overlooked something or if there is some trick to this riddle. Though it has taken some time in the end, I arrived at the feeling that I was dancing at the palm of that professor's hand and found myself feeling harassed.

Incidentally speaking, the answers to the question from before are,

[Among the two ropes, we ignite both ends of one of them and ignite one end of the other one. When the rope which was ignited from both side burns out, we ignite the other end of the remaining rope. When it burns out, the time it took will be 30 minutes + 15 minutes = 45 minutes]

[The cats are [Holding] three fishes and run away, so there are 7 fishes in total. There is no problem with those]

(TL: a word riddle, "holding in mouth" and "adding" has the same reading of "くわえて", so it is implied that cats brought more fish rather than took some).

[It is 9 coins. After dividing those equally, one person will take his coins together with bag]

That is what it comes to.

Ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-dong.

As I broke through the last room with no-attribute Hokora, there was a familiar transfer formation which stood on six stone pillars.

"I made it, didn't I..... After truly taking my time..... "

Anyway, though it might have been that professor's prank, it really was some experience for me having to deal with it. While I was already fed up with it, I poured the magic into magic stones in six pillars and stood together with Kohaku in the center of transfer formation. After pouring no-attribute magic under my feet, the transfer formation became activated.

=====Scene-
Change=====

As the torrent of light fades away and I open my eyes, there is the usual scenery of Babylon. Every tree is being stirred by the wind and the sea of clouds is spreading before me.

While I look around the vicinity restlessly, a building becomes visible on the opposite side of the trees. Now then, is that [Warehouse], [Library], or [Laboratory]?

As I stepped out from the transfer formation and turned in the direction of the building, I immediately understood what that building was from everything I came to see before long.

The building's shape was similar to a round can of tuna. The entire surface is made of glass, and the inside is completely visible. What comes into view is the interior filled with bookshelves which seem to stretch for who knows how far, and which are furthermore tightly packed with a mountain of books.

It is [Library]. No doubts about that.

Circling around the building's circumference, I search for the entrance. Soon, We reached a magnificent large door.

As I open the massive double doors, there is one more door in the inner parts as well. After opening it as well, I enter [Library].

"Uwaa....."
[This is.....]

Both me and Kohaku are lost for words. There are books, books, and more books as far as eyes can reach. The lined up bookshelves as well are at least 10 meters high, and since the outer wall is drawing a curve at the same time, this place really looks like a labyrinth.

There are books located as seemingly unreachable for hand heights, how am I supposed to take them? There is nothing sort of ladder or stepladder around....

As I tread on the red carpet with my feet, I decide to turn towards the center of this circle for the time being. Since it is built in a complicated form, I cannot go there in a straight line. I suppose that's an intentional omission in the arrangement of the bookshelves.

Still, when I look at the ceiling, I can understand the direction of the center from the joining points spreading out in a radiating shape, so I continue going by following them.

After advancing for a short while, I see a desk and chair in a sudden clearing. Various books lying on top of the desk have already become a huge pile and a single girl was sitting down on a sofa among that heap.

Having dropped her eyes to the book she was holding, she didn't even try looking in this direction. Her chestnut-colored hair is cut shortly and her face adorned with glasses looks common to other Babylon Numbers. Her clothes are the same as others as well, so that girl must be the manager of [Library].

"Anoo....."

"I will finish reading this in about 30 minutes, so please do not start a conversation with me"

"Ah, okay....."

How unapproachable. This is definitely the treatment for those considered to be a total nuisance. It can't be helped, should I wait? Only the sound of pages being turned over by the girl is hanging in the quiet room. Having become bored, I try taking and opening the book from around this area in my hand innocently.

"I can't read it....."

What language is that? It looks neither ancient magic language nor the

ancient language of the spirits. Is that ancient Paruteno language?

"Reading/Ancient Paruteno language"

Ah, I can read it, I can. But..... It is so difficult that I can't understand it..... It looks like a report from the investigation and inquiry into magic beasts or something.

Is it because [Reading] was invoked, the titles written on the bindings on the books here and there became readable. That must mean that all those books have been written in ancient Paruteno language.

"Inquiry and interference into manipulation of magic fluids"

"Magic herbalism and secret medicines"

""Introduction into night", Beginner's edition"

(TL: I laughed too much at this than I should have)

Oi. As I reached out my hand a bit towards such straightforward title and tried flipping over its pages, it was typical "how-to" book just as one would expect of it.

[In order to be able to enjoy each other, it is better to first of all start with getting rid of the tension. If not underaged, it's not bad to also borrow just a little bit of alcohol's power by drinking lightly. However, if the alcohol is too strong, everything will turn into a mess, so it's better to at least be prudent after all. Next is, the partner's....]

Hmmmmmm.... Ho, hoo..... I~, I see.....

This is unexpectedly.... usable.... I think.... Eh, that is Is that so? Well, but still..... The hurdle is high, I guess~. This [casual] thing, it is difficult.....

"What are you reading? "

"Aaaaa ! ? "

I spring up instinctively at the raised up voice from behind. You surprised me! Are? Did 30 minutes pass already?

A young girl opens her mouth while tilting her head in my direction looking puzzled.

"Welcome to Babylon's [Library]. I am the management terminal to this [Library], my name is Irisfam. Please call me Fam"

"Ah, Aah, Fam, ~right. I am Mochizuki Touya. Nice to meet you"

I put back the book into its place with my hand behind me while replying to the girl. I wonder if she saw through that.....

"For you to come here, that means you have solved the professor's questions, haven't you? In recognition of the conditions being satisfied, the frame number 24, codenamed [Irisfam], will be transferred to you from henceforth. Please treat me well, Master"

Ah, just as I thought, the one who made those questions is the professor, didn't she? No one else would need to create them that way one by one. Well, I guess it is still better than just being excessively exposed to ero-attacks..... Haa!

Having realized the following development, I tried to put myself on guard, but it was too late, my lips were snatched by Fam. Quickly thrusting in her tongue, she kept violating the interior of my mouth. In comparison to the time with Liora from [Rampart], she instantly ended this act which she achieved so easily.

"Registration complete. I have collected Master's genes. From now on, the ownership of [Library] will be transferred to Master"

Kuu, do I really not learn? Despite that I knew it would turn out like this. Well, since I don't have an option to not do it, I would have to do it sooner or later, and it is better to do it rather than being deceived due to some weird situation, right?.....

"So, that is the status? How many Babylon have been gathered?"

"Eh? E~to, [Garden], [Workshop], [Alchemy Building], [Hangar], [Rampart], [Tower]. The six of those. It will be seven with [Library]"

"I see. Then, let us proceed this way"

As Fam typed something into the desk's terminal, [Library] quietly came to live. It is probably turning to dock with other Babylon located in the skies above Brunhild.

"Master, I have a request. I would like to receive new books for this [Library]
.... "

"Even more books than those already present here? Or rather, there is surely some number of them here"

"I believe that roughly 20 million books have been passed down"

20 mil..... If I am not mistaken, even The Library of Congress in Japan has a book collection amounting to about 10 million items, doesn't it? Certainly, if you add everything like magazines, newspapers and nonbook materials, it should rise up to about 35 million.

"Since I have read almost all of them, I want to read some new ones. I urgently request this"

"Saying you read them.... All 20 million of them?"

"I read one book in two hours on average, and when one continues to do it for about 5000 years, it will be around this much"

No-no-no. Did you not rest even a single day!? Shizuka and Flora had slept for who knows how many years by using sleep devices, and when I arrived to Noel from [Tower], she was sleeping even then. Are you aware of that!?

"That's because I do not move much. But still, when you are operating for more than 5000 years, your condition will be poor-looking. Well, once [Laboratory] is found, I should be able to do proper maintenance"

So she has been reading books for more than 5000 years..... She is hardcore book lover, all right. Is she one of those book junkies? How unexpected.

For the time being, shall I report that I have found [Library] which Rin craves for? And since it is Rin I am talking about, she looks like she would stay here for a long time, I suppose.

Chapter 184: Fairy's confession and [Human Type]

"AT LAST, it caaaaame ! ! "

A goth loli girl with short twin pigtails raises above her head both of her fists and expresses joy with her whole body. Needless to say, this girl is Rin.

Next to her was the figure of a stuffed bear who raised both fists in the same way as her owner, as she takes a delighted pose.

"The fruits of ancient wisdom! An unknown knowledge and history! All of it is at hand! "

"It's hard for me to say this since you're getting really excited, but I will apply the restriction on reading the books from [Library] for the time being, you know?"

"What did you say ! ? "

Opening her eyes wide, Rin swiftly turns in my direction.

By the way, we are currently in Brunhild's castle, as I have not yet taken Rin or everyone else to Babylon's [Library]. Just in case, I summoned Rin to the reception room (though Pola tagged along as well) and I broke the ice by saying that we had discovered [Library].

"Well, you see, when thinking about it logically, Rin is the ambassador of Misumido. It will be unbearable for me if you simply take away this ancient wisdom and related knowledge away, don't you agree? Moreover, I still don't know what you can offer in return, right?"

"So it came down to this, isn't it...? Well, it's not like I don't understand it... I know, let's do it like this. I request you to accept me as a royal magician of Brunhild"

"Ha ? "

What's this person saying? Certainly, the position of the said royal magician to our household is yet vacant. She is tentatively the chief of the fairy tribe which excels at magic, so there shouldn't be any problems with her ability itself.

However, Rin is an ambassador of Misumido, won't there be various

problems? She is more or less a central figure of another country as one of the chiefs of the seven demi-human clans.

"There won't be any problems. Though I did bring with me the name of the chief of fairy tribe, nowadays it's essentially like an honorary position at most. After all, the one doing the majority of actual work is Eris"

"Eris ? "

"She is the real royal magician of Misumido. Due to the current occasion, I should hand over the seat of the chief of fairy tribe to her. Thus I will be able to completely retire and absorb myself in inquiries of knowledge "

U~mu, in case it's an honorary position in name only, she shouldn't know any state secrets of Misumido, and they won't likely worry she might leak out something. Furthermore, if it's that beast king, he probably wouldn't mind. Since he desires to raise the status of the demi-humans in other countries too, it looks to me that he will unconditionally approve this situation. Whether it's useful or not will be left for later.

"How rude of me. I would be really amazing if I managed to convince you already. I will show you that I can use the knowledge acquired in [Library] as nourishment for Brunhild. Ah, and if you like, why not I also become your wife?"

"Not at present, I'm good. That reminds me, is Rin not married?"

"..... How smoothly you have dodged a once in a lifetime confession.... Are you not even going to consider it for a bit?"

Though she is complaining for some reason, I will ignore it. I might be saying it late, but after living for more than 600 years, shouldn't she have been married one or two times? Is it possible that she has children?

"I'm afraid that I haven't been married and I don't have any children. I thought I said this before, but fairy's growth period stops in between the latter half of their teens and the first half of their twenties... In my case, it happened quite early..... Thanks to that, I am not being found as a partner material, you see. Though I was called out a few times by men with strange hobbies, I won't go as low as to make someone like that my partner"

Well, I guess it is understandable that it would become so. Moreover, the growth impediment keeps Rin in that same state forever. Considering that she's

also the chief of fairy tribe, she would likely think twice about her partner.

Though there is a proverb that says [Seek an older woman to marry even if it means wearing metal sandals], she is way more senior than me. As for whether I would search to the point of wearing worn-out metal sandals.....

".....Do you dislike older women ? "

"No, I guess? In Rin's case, I don't feel like you are older and I am not that bothered about it. However, that story is different when marriage is concerned. I trust and do not dislike Rin, but..."

"Ara, I am quite pleased with you though. To the point where I consider that it's fine to get married. I like you to that extent, you know?"

Uguuu...! Saying "like"... that did come out straight.

Rin springs out from the chair, comes over and peers into my face. Her mischievous pupils were looking intensely at me. Without knowing why I cannot avert my eyes. Am I a frog that is getting stared at by a snake?

Just when I thought that her eyes closed so unexpectedly, I was lightly kissed. "!?"

"Fufuu, by this reaction it doesn't seem like you don't have a pulse. Despite having 7 fiancées already, how are you not accustomed to such things, I wonder?"

Being able to put up such alluring signs even with her childish appearance, is that a fruit of having lived for a long time, I wonder?

Dangerous. Even I understand that my face is getting red. If she was an unfamiliar party, I would be strongly surprised and wouldn't get this confused, but it's precisely because that the other party is well-known that this outcome is nasty.

As I hesitate on what counterattack would be good enough, Rin smiles slightly,

"Well, it's too unreasonable to give an immediate reply. Though I did think that having a position of mistress would be good too if it suits you, I want to get married at least once after all. Please try to think about it seriously even if it's for a short while. You know, I am a surprisingly devoted type"

In a moment she separated from me, I was kissed on the cheek this time. Kuu, how cute. Though it might not be a word to be used in regards to someone who lived for more than 600 years.

"So, would it be fine to use [Library] if I become your wife? Darling"

"Just as I thought, is this your aim ?!"

"Naturally, it's not only that. The part about me liking you is the truth. Do you not believe me?"

"Aah, enough already..... I understand. You may examine it freely. But would you please not spread this subject to other people arbitrarily?"

"Thank you. Love you, Darling"

(TL: fck this shit, I am sold)

Unbelievably fishy. Huh? Haven't just I yielded to the woman's seduction technique? No, let's think of this as obtaining an excelling person of talent. Though I don't feel like I can deceive someone with that, it is undoubted that this way is better for my mental health.

As I was thinking about this matter in my head, Pola was waving its head a little and shrugging its shoulders as if saying [My-oh-my] in front of me.

=====
Scene-
Change=====

"Fuaaaaaaaaa....."

"Hawaaaaaa....."

The voices of Rin and Hilda resound through [Library]. The others are also surprised, but not to that extent, it seems.

For Rin, she came to [Library] which was her goal, and as for Hilda, she was amazed at Babylon itself. It is the first time I have taken her along after all.

"How in the world did this place come to be!? For it to be flying in the sky.....! Ah, Frame Gears are here as well !?"

"Excuse me, but please be quiet at [Library]"

"Ah, excuse me....."

As she still had her eyes turned to the book while sitting on a sofa, Fam bluntly gave a warning to Hilda who raised her voice in a big way. What Fam is

reading at the moment is the book from this month's latest supply which I delivered from [Tsukiyomi] for the time being. Ah, I have excluded the risky books just in case.

"By the way, how do I take a book from high up, I wonder? Is there a ladder or stepladder?"

"Aah, try touching the bookshelf with your hand and imagine the level you want to see"

When Rin touches the bookshelf as I told, only the touched bookshelf slowly sank into the basement and stopped exactly at the needed height..

"I see. So it has a structure like that.this is..... !"

She takes one book from the level which the bookshelf stopped in front of her eyes in her hand. The title is unreadable as usual. Rin probably doesn't understand it either, right? She raises her voice as she turns over the pages while being excited.

"What kind of book is this ? "

"It is a textbook on ancient magic! Even though it's written in an ancient magic language, I can somewhat read it. Both the magics which became the great source of magic used today and magic which hasn't been handed down already are mentioned in it! Are you aware of how amazing this is!?"

"Excuse me, but please be quiet at [Library]"

"Ah, forgive me please....."

Fam gives out a warning once more. All the while still reading her book. This person is not putting on airs. How print junkie-ish.

"Nevertheless, the number of books is astounding ~degozaru.... Wouldn't the biggest problem be searching for a target book with this?"

"Ahh, that will be okay too. For example....., that's right, [Search for books related to swords]"

As I utter those words, an arrow rises up to the surface of the carpet. As I understood it, if you keep following it, you will be able to search for the desired book. Incidentally speaking, it seems that even if you return the book you read at a random shelf, it will be properly moved into its original bookshelf. It is probably quite similar to the automatic ordering function, I suppose. That's

convenient for sure.

Having pulled out the nearby books and flipping through them as she turns over the pages, is Yumina trying to get Fam angry? She mutters in a low voice.

"However, those books are written in a language most of us cannot read..... We will have to ask Touya-san to make reading glasses for us..... "

"Making them is not a problem. If you know which language is used, that is. Fam, would you please?"

When I call out to Fam, she raises her face from the book and stands up. As one would expect, there is supposedly no way for her to disregard the words of mine, who is her master.

It's inconsequential, but this girl was also wearing the garments of her choice which she discovered from among those I received from Zanakku-san. She is no exception to Shizuka and others. What I don't understand is why she chose a sailor uniform. They make her appearance feel like that of literature girl.



Illust. ねこたま。

"In how many languages are the books here written in?"

"Magic language, Spirit language, Paruteno language, Remiria secret letters,

Holy Rasta language, Chief God official language, Deigar high-speed language, Rolard frontier language, gospel letters, Esteba pictographs, Aba language, Calnar language, Markur language, Salieri commercial language, Urdenias Empire language, Gazur letters, ancient majin language..... I guess that would be it. I don't recall any others beyond those. Since it's impossible that I haven't read those, I will understand it once I see them "

That's a lot! Well, should I compare it with the languages back on earth, it's probably on the smaller side. It might be that the world consisted of countries which were united to some extent.

If I am not mistaken, there should have been an ancient kingdom of Paruteno during the time of that professor, right? It was a magic kingdom which was said to rule nearly half of the continent. So it's no wonder that there are a lot of books written in Paruteno language.

A kingdom which was flourishing 5000 years ago, is it? But it was completely ruined by a grand invasion of Fureizu..... N? Wait a minute.

"Search for books related to Fureizu"

When I tried looking them up as a test, an arrow appeared on top of the cart. So there are some?

Although the country was ruined, the surviving people should have written something for the sake of the future people.

Having followed the arrow, I turned my eyes towards the level of the shelf which was blinking faintly. Among the lined up book on the shelf, I took out a single book which was slightly protruding. I invoke [Reading] since it is written in Paruteno language. All right, I can now read it.

[Magic crystal]

As I flipped through the book with said title, the Fureizu's trait of hunting humans, their weak spot called [core], abilities like regeneration and magic absorption were written, but I didn't find anything beyond what I heard from End. Naturally, their desire for the [King]'s core or the fact that they are visitors from another have been recorded.

It also speaks of villages, towns, and royal capitals destroyed after the Fureizu

appeared 5000 years ago, it is mostly useless, to be frank. Before people could work out any breakthrough solution, the Fureizu had vanished completely, so it's understandable. All the while leaving behind just an unbelievable damage to humankind.

Due to the Fureizu invasion, humankind (demi-humans are included as well) has lost more than half of its numbers. Most countries lost their leaders from royal capitals and metropolises and were ruined.

The misery of the abnormal damage and the last moments of the heroes who had fallen after having fought ever so gallantly were written too, but there was not enough information that would seem beneficial to us. At that time, they had probably handled Fureizu as mysterious magic apparitions too. It can't be helped, I suppose.

"Oh, this is....."

Pictures of Fureizu were drawn at the end of the book. Each type was drawn one by one and marked with a sort of ★ mark denoting their power, size, or agility.

I see. It's unlikely that they had been standing with their hands folded doing nothing. They researched and worked on counter-measures.

Those called by End as lower class types such as cricket type, snake type, beetle type, mantis type, ostrich type, and many others were drawn on one page for each type. Though the number of those types is big, it's not like they cannot be defeated if several people team up temporarily.

As I flipped through the pages, the intermediate-level types like the manta-type, spider-type, shark-type, dog-type, dragonfly-type, ladybird-type, and so on were mentioned. There are types which I did not see too. Have they refined countermeasures to a great extent against those? If one uses a powerful indirect attacking magic, it might be possible to defeat those types. Even if that's the case, the damage was probably big. If it is Frame Gear, one or two of them will be able to bring down those.

Now for the advanced-level types. In addition to the crocodile-type which we defeated, a bird..... or rather, a pteranodon-type, a porcupine-type, wild boar-type and others have been drawn. If I take that crocodile-type which we have

seen as a base, each one of those possesses a gigantic, unthinkable power. Frankly speaking, confronting those guys as an inexperienced opponent can't be called anything but reckless.

I unintentionally turn over the rustling page once again. As I did that, the picture that had been drawn next delivered an absurd shock. My voice doesn't raise quite that much....

"What is..... the meaning of this.....?"

The thing that was drawn next was the [Human type]. On the front side of the body, with the exception of the places from the brow down to around the navel, the figures of man and woman had grown lumps of crystal from their whole bodies. Furthermore, their power and agility exceeded that of advanced-level types. Much to my astonishment.

"So you say those types exist..... ? "

It's as if they should be called Fureizu humans. They appeared 5000 years ago and they were also recognized as more powerful than advanced level types by the people of that time at least....

I cannot predict how many of them there are, but it's no good as we are now. I have to refine our countermeasures even more.

I renewed my determination as I closed the book.

Chapter 185: Proposal and Dungeon

"O Flame come forth, Explosive flame barrage, Flare Burst"

As Lindsey recites this spell, a series of large explosions occur in 5 separate locations. Everything that was there got blown off.

This new spell is an enhanced version of "Explosion"..... Or rather, it seems it's one of the original ancient magics. What an outrageous power it has..... It definitely was the correct decision to come to the plains instead of the training grounds.

"You've done it! I wonder if fire attribute suits Lindsey better after all?"
"...I wouldn't have been able to make it this far by myself. Rin-san helped me....."

"Just so you know, my worst attribute is fire. It's not restricted to me alone, it's the same for everyone from the fairy clan. Only a small number of members from the fairy clan can use fire magic, to begin with. I'm guessing that it's being avoided subconsciously as the race originally used to live in the forest"

If I'm not mistaken, didn't Rin say she possesses six attributes? And that she only doesn't have dark attribute. She did say something like "I can't use summoning magic, so I made Pola instead".

The stuffed bear, which was standing at Rin's feet, took a triumphant pose after seeing the explosions. It seems unlikely it would be able to substitute a summoned beast though.

"Has Rin memorized any ancient magic?"
"Yeah. Mine is water attribute though"

Rin stands in front of Lindsey, extends both her hands in front of her and gathers water attribute magic power.

"O Water come forth, the great whirlpool of raging stream, Maelstrom"

A huge water tornado appears in front of us. It came forth shaving off and engulfing the ground. It's hard to understand because there is no target, but it's a wide range annihilation magic. It's powerful too....

"Its weakness is that it has a high consumption rate of magic. Though I think its effect corresponds to that"

I guess that it's natural for the consumption rate of magic to go up if the magic's power increases. It's best if you use different types of magic depending on the situation so that it wouldn't be wasteful. You should also consider the quantity of magic power you possess.

It wasn't only Rin and Lindsey that got powered up by the discovery of [Library]. Rosetta and Monica hoped to read the books related to [Magic Engineering]. It seems they are trying out various things.

Recently Suu is being taught magic by Rin. Although Suu only has light attribute magic, her magic capacity apparently is quite high. She seems to be particularly focused on learning recovery magic. I heard that she makes appearances in the knights' training grounds to try out that magic.

At the same time, it seems she still practices with Lapis-san and the rest. Where on earth is she heading towards.....?

Fam has come to the ground and secluded herself in the castle's library. That is a serious illness, isn't it? She is the mere shadow of print addicts. It has also aggravated for more than 5000 years, so there shouldn't be a cure anymore. It's an incurable disease.

In the afternoon, I make an appearance in the adventurer's guild. I make sure to come at least once a week. Though it's mainly to gather information from various places through the guild master Rerisha-san, I also accept quests sometimes to distract myself.

I enter the guild covered with a hood. It's as crowded as ever, but honestly speaking, I think there are those who are aware of my identity. However, there is no need to stand out on my own.

"You! Wanna fight, you bastard!"

"Huh!? Bring it on! Let's go outside!"

While two men are grasping each other's collars, they go outside with agile side stepping. Again? I feel like the quarrels occur each time I come here. Oh well, I guess this is also part of the routine.

This happens because adventurers want to prove their own worth. As long as they don't cause problems for the residents, they can mutually knock each other out.

"Good afternoon"

"Ah! Maj.....Ah no-no, Touya-san, good afternoon. Thanks for your hard work"

I'm talking with the receptionist, the catwoman onee-san. If I'm not mistaken, her name is Misha-san. Her cat ears are twitching going 'Piko Piko'.

"How does the guild feel recently?"

"Let me see. As usual, there are many miscellaneous type quests. Merchant's escort quests come in from time to time. However, it's not possible to make a big profit here. This causes some annoyance, right? Thanks to that everyone immediately go their ways. No one stays so there are no familiar faces. Hence, it feels like every day there are a lot of new visitors"

As she says that, her eyes focus on the two people fighting each other outside. I see. For some reason, many of those who call themselves adventurers tend to appeal with [I am definitely the greatest] during their first time meeting. I wonder if they do this from the start to make sure they are not underestimated? As a result, there are many conflicts.

It's fine if the ones saying those lines are beginners, but there are a lot of people among them who hit a wall without being able to advance to advanced levels.

They can be saved of that if there is a veteran adventurer capable of keeping an eye on them, but..... it would be unreasonable for them to stay as they can't earn money in this country.

After that, Misha-san leads me to the second floor and I enter Rerisha-san's room. The elf guild master was tidying up some papers. Rerisha-san looked up and indicated me to sit on a sofa.

"Excellent. You have arrived here just as I was considering the possibility of contacting you"

"Did something happen?"

Having put the documents on the desk in order, Rerisha-san grabbed

something that looked like a paper and sat down on the sofa across from me.

"There are two news and one proposal. First, the dragons have appeared"
"The dragons you say?"

"One of them has been sighted south of the Great Forest Sea, in the Sandora Kingdom. I've been told that it suddenly flew towards a desert village, started to rampage there, and then flew away in an unknown direction. So far it sounds ordinary, but the dragons have also appeared in Yuuron, as well as in Nokia. It seems villages and towns have suffered a lot of damage. Moreover, they say it was three different dragons"

It's certainly very strange..... The dragons live in mountain areas where there aren't many people. I've also heard that they rarely attack human dwellings. Even among dragons, there are junior and senior classes. It appears that those who attack people and do things like that are the junior class which are closer to animals.

When I went to Misumido for the first time, the black dragon that attacked the village we visited was also a junior class. The red dragon I met afterwards was a senior class who appeared to be reasonable.

"I guess it might just be a coincidence. There are many things we don't know about dragons. So it may be nesting season or something along those lines. We will be proceeding with an investigation on that, so we will find out eventually. There is other news along with a proposal but....."

Rerisha-san spreads a map on the table in between us. Eh? Is this the ocean? However, there are several islands on the map.....

"This is the recently discovered archipelago. It's located south of the Sandora Kingdom. As a result of a survey, several ancient ruins have been found on those islands but..... it's a faraway place, and it's not possible to excavate them easily and investigate the ruins themselves"

"Have you crossed large amounts of people by ships?"

"Yes, but those islands are not suitable for long stays. Temperature alternations are intense. There are also a lot of magic beasts. I was wondering why there were ancient ruins on these islands, but maybe it was once a big island during the times when the ancient civilization was flourishing....."

Do you mean that an island sank sometime in between then and now? It's not impossible. That may be the reason why the people of the island abandoned it. After that, magic beasts spread and it became the uninhabited islands.....

"The additional problem is that these ancient ruins are quite wide dungeons. It's speculated that they were created by a mage of old or a wise man. If that's the case, it wouldn't be strange to find any kind of treasure in there. We as a guild cannot overlook that"

Well, I guess so. It's like discovering a mountain of treasure. I've never dived into a dungeon before, but it seems that they are pretty much scattered around the world.

"Usually, requests are put for adventures to enter these dungeons. It's an established way to have them do the exploration. However, the location itself this time doesn't make it easy to do that. So this is where the proposal comes in"

Rerisha-san swiftly leans forward thus coming closer. What what? Cl-close. It doesn't feel bad being pressed by a beautiful woman though.

"I've been thinking about whether it would possible to connect the dungeons on those islands and Brunhild with his Majesty's [Gate]"

"Ha?"

What do you mean? Do you want to connect this country with those dungeons? Is there a reason for doing that?

"In other words, what I mean to say is that I want a gateway for the adventurers who wish to challenge the dungeons to use. If the adventurers gather in this country to explore the dungeons, the town will develop. As a guild, we can send adventurers, the investigation can also advance, and it will be possible to buy treasures or magic beasts' materials from them. What do you think?"

Ahaha, is that what you meant? We will be crowded with adventurers aiming for quick money for sure. The inns, weapon shops, armor shops, and tool stores will definitely prosper with business. Besides, people allured by it will gather here as well. It's not bad, isn't it?

I can take measures to make sure that the magic beasts won't come from the other side. It's not difficult. We are going to promote the town by using the dungeons, right?

"I have a few questions. Do those islands belong to any country?"

"They're currently being monitored by the guild, and don't belong to any country. If you accept the aforementioned proposal, I think it will be fine to transfer them to the Dukedom. Of course, that is if you are to guarantee providing information on the ruins and our privileged right on the sales of the obtained treasure by the adventurers in the dungeon"

"I have another question. Leaking out such information, have you not considered whether I wouldn't personally explore the dungeons and monopolize the treasures?"

"Hehe. Do you think that a person who would do such a thing, would gather the kings of the world with the intent of defeating the Fureizu? Even if I look like this, I still have the eyes to judge people as a guild master"

It seems she thinks very highly of me. I better not betray her expectation, right?

It's certainly an interesting story. Rather than me finishing the exploration, wouldn't the adventurers, the guild, and the merchants have a benefit in this? Just exploring and making a map will be profitable. Eventually, someone like a cartographer may even appear as well.

As the dungeons get deeper, the monsters should probably also get stronger, right? Certainly, the magic density gets stronger towards the underground. I have heard that strong magic beasts prefer living there.

As long as they are adventurers, they should always bear in mind that there may be injuries or even deaths caused by magic beasts.

"I understand. I will accept the proposal"

"Thank you very much. Because [Gate] between the dungeons' entrances and the guild branch will be made on the town's outskirts, please allow us to use them once they are completed"

The dungeons, huh? I hope the town will prosper with this. Shall I do a little bit of early exploration?

Chapter 186: Non-serious exploration, and a Gold Ring

I had Rerisha-san teach me the exact location of the islands with the dungeons, and then immediately transferred to Sandora Kingdom's desert by [Gate]. From there I flew with [Fly] aiming for those islands.

After flying for a while, the targeted islands eventually came into sight. They're certainly far away. Even if I crossed over from the Sandora Kingdom, it would take a considerably long time to get here by ship.

"Etto, if I'm not mistaken, there should be three of them, right?"

On each of the islands, there is a different dungeon whose total number is three. Even though I was told to decide on their names, let's think about it later. It would be helpful if any good names strike me though.

"Oh?"

As I'm looking at one of those islands, a medium-sized ship was floating off the coast. I also saw a group of them camping on the beach ahead of it. Are they the guild members watching the islands whom Rerisha-san had spoken about?

While I descend straight to the campgrounds, the surprised guild members surround me with weapons at hands.

"W-who are you!?"

"I've received a request from one of the guild masters, Rerisha-san. I guess I'm more or less acting as an adventurer right now. Ah, this is my guild card"

"Goold.....!? T-then you are Brunhild's.....! Please forgive our rudeness!"

The people from the guild immediately put away their swords. The Guild Card, it's amazing. Because it seems like they can't be forged, they have a lot of credibility. I wonder if it's impossible for the guild members to mistake one for a fake guild card? (TL: liar, you can clone them with workshop)

"Rerisha-san requested me to connect these islands, where the dungeons are, with Brunhild...Ah~...Isn't it better to bring the person herself here?"

I opened [Gate] and pulled Rerisha-san from the adventurer's guild in Brunhild.

".....it's definitely what I've proposed, but it's sort of hard to believe how fast you've handled it"

Rerisha-san talked with the guild members about the details until now and informed them that their duty is finished. From henceforth, those islands will become an enclave of Brunhild, though... They are wonderfully empty. Only sandy beaches, rocky mountains, jungles, and blue skies are spreading in sight.

"With that done, where is this island's dungeon?"

"You will shortly see a rocky mountain after you go straight into the jungle from here. After you climb it a little, there will be a cave on the mountain side with stairs leading down to the dungeon. The island is surrounded by a wide shallow beach, so it appears like it probably continues down under the sea, and it may perhaps also be connected with the other two dungeons underground"

If these islands were once one big island, there might be a possibility that it's as the guild member says. Well, for the time being, let's go check it out.

"I'll try diving into the dungeon for a moment, but what will everyone else do?"

"I will advance the procedures at Brunhild. I'm sorry, but can I humbly ask you to transfer those guys to the harbor in the Sandora Kingdom, please?"

As it's not a problem for me in particular, I send Rerisha-san back to the guild's room she was previously in with [Gate]. After ascertaining that, the guild members quickly removed the camp and boarded the ship while looking happy. I wonder if it has been quite hard to wait for commands in such a place? Well, it's not like I don't understand them.

When everyone got onboard, I transferred every ship to the harbor in the Sandora Kingdom.

Well then, shall I head over to the dungeon?

It would be sufficient to just fly to it, but I proceeded to go on foot while lumbering the jungle trees and making the road with earth magic with the intent of also securing the route from the sandy beach to the dungeon.

On the way, I was attacked by a wolf with six legs and a double-headed snake, but I beat them down since they weren't that strong.

Pushing my path through the jungle in a straight line, I made a road up to the rocky mountain. From there I cut stairs to complete the path to the dungeon's entrance cave.

I enter the cave and take a look at the bottom of the stairs.

"It's really dark. It's natural though"

I descend the stairs, while making a light sphere with [Light] magic. This dungeon definitely gives a feeling of being damp and humid. It's surrounded by the sea, so that much is obvious I suppose.

Before long, I arrived at a wide room. Looking at the walls and ceiling, they are undoubtedly man-made, and I can see that this is a dungeon. While I scan my surroundings, I noticed that the road was branching into three paths: front, left, and right. Oi-Oi, A junction immediately after getting to the basement? If this was a game, the earlier levels would surely have straight paths. But I can't really complain since this is not a game.

For now, as I don't want to get lost, I advance straight into the front passage. I guess, I will be able to return by [Gate] should I ever get lost though.

As I advanced straight ahead, I reached a bifurcation splitting the path into right and left. Mmm. That's what I get for thinking that I would go in a straight path all the way.

Huh? Wait a minute?

"I don't think it will be possible but..... Display Map. My current position, show the first underground floor of the dungeon"

[Displaying]

There was a reply from my smartphone, and a map of the first floor of this dungeon along with my current position was displayed in the air. It worked. Oi, it totally worked! How boring.

It also carefully displayed the stairs that go the second floor. Looking at this, there seems to be four floors.

Hmmmm, now that I know that I won't enjoy it as much..... I feel like I can make money by selling this map but..... let's not do that. It will be more enjoyable for the adventurers to investigate this dungeon and find the path by themselves. I also somewhat felt like making an amusement park out of it. Well, whatever. Shall I at least clear the first underground floor.....?

"Whooops!"

As I turn to the passage leading to the staircase to the second underground floor, I suddenly came across two monsters. They have short builds and dog heads, they are called Kobolds.

It seems the Kobolds were anticipating me because they swung down their stone axes exactly when I turned around the corner. I quickly dodged that and shot both of them with Brynhildr. Ah, weren't paralysis bullets loaded? Those guys narrowly escaped death.

If I think about it carefully, I'm using [Light]. It makes me an easy target. Of course, I would get ambushed, wouldn't I?

I ignore the collapsed Kobolds and head towards the second underground floor. As I was heading towards the stairs, there seems to be a side passage with a room at the end. It's somewhat suspicious, should I go and check it? Side trips are important too.

I advanced through the passage and opened the double doors in the dead end. There was a treasure chest in the corner of the small room. Even though it's a common scene for a game, it feels out of place when I encounter it in reality. I wonder why?

"Why is there a treasure box in such a place?" – is what I want to Tsukkomi. Oh well, shall I try opening it for now. (TL: ask that professor)

While getting a little excited, I proceed to open the treasure chest. It's not a trap, right? It would surely be unpleasant if an explosion happened just as I open it. Let's raise the lid a little. Apparently, it doesn't seem to be locked. When I daringly opened it, there was something I couldn't possibly describe.

"What's this.....?"

I see a rusted dagger, a dirty leather bag, an incomprehensible pole, and a

handmade stone ax.....Ah, say, isn't this the same ax the Kobolds from before had? Are these items collected by those guys by any chance?

Apparently, this is the Kobold's treasure room. The guild won't possibly buy such trash.....no?

As I took a closer look, there was a small ring in the corner of the treasure chest. There is no jewelry attached, but..... isn't it golden? Oh, I got a gold ring (?). If it's real, this would likely sell.

.....If I think carefully about it, from where did they bring this treasure chest?

This treasure chest might have originally contained treasure, but each and every monster took something from it without permission..... I wonder if the Kobolds from before found that treasure chest and used it as their own?

This treasure chest may not even belong to this floor. Perhaps it ended up here after being brought up from the lower floors by someone's human (or is it monster) hands.

Things that existed in the treasure room were already taken away by monsters, and may be hidden in various locations like this treasure chest..... There is a chance that monsters may be holding onto them.

I take the ring and leave everything else behind. Kobold-kuns, from now on adventurers will come and may chase you guys around. Be strong.

As soon as I arrived at the second underground floor, I teleported to Rerisha-san's place with [Gate].

=====Scene Change=====

"Although it's an ordinary ring that does not bestow any effects, there is no doubt that this gold"

Is it really genuine? Then doesn't this mean we can expect more treasure from the dungeon?

The adventurer's objectives are the treasures sleeping in the dungeon, and the materials that can be taken from magic beasts and monsters. In the dungeon, it seems that there are many of them who have achieved a different evolution when compared to those living above ground. There even seems to

be a lot of unusual raw materials there.

"May I purchase this ring from you?"

"I don't mind. How much will it be?"

"Let me see..... because there is no workmanship and it has a lot of scratches, how about two silver coins?"

Hmm. It's worth about a week stay at the Inn. I think it's reasonable for the amount of time I spent exploring. Well, it might not have been easy to find though.

Ah, that reminds me, if the number of adventurers increases I may have to upgrade the inns. It seems that all rooms in [Tsukiyomi] inn might be filled by them.

"And, about the gate connecting the islands and Brunhild, what will you do about the toll fees?"

"A toll, you say?"

"Since going there is a dead end, I think you should only charge an entrance fee, but ... are you going to make it free of charge?"

"Umm~.....that's right..... Well then, how about one copper coin?"

"It's quite cheap" – is what I was told, but the possibility that they won't return is quite high. If possible, I want them to come back regularly. I want them to have meals and use the lodgings here.

Having said that if I make it free of charge, there is a possibility that everyone will stop paying attention to those who enter and go as they like. Who went to the islands? Are they not back? It would be better to control this to some degree. It can be easily done by using guild cards.

The toll won't make much money, but that's not its purpose, isn't it?

It's possible that things like weapons, armor, ointments, and potions may be needed. It's a place where I want to count my chickens before they are hatched, but let's talk to the merchants in town in advance. Just in case.

I may soon need a blacksmith master who can do repairs for weapons and the like.

It has become fun.

Chapter 187: Transition Gates and Silver Dagger

Since the news regarding the newly found dungeons have spread quickly, adventurers have started gathering in Brunhild.

At any rate, it's the new dungeons which have not been previously discovered. They haven't been devastated by thieves because they're located on an isolated island on the sea. As such, there is a high possibility that treasures and other items will still be intact.

In other words, it's now a "first come first serve" race. The adventurers striving to be the first ones there are diving into the three dungeons [Amaterasu], [Tsukuyomi], and [Susanoo] that have been named by me.

In the past, I've hidden the existence of [Gate] as much as possible in order to avoid it being used by influential people and just to be cautious. However, quite a considerable number of people know about it now. Well, I did use it quite extensively during the battle with the Frazes in Yuuron.

Besides, I've already become someone powerful. I think no one will try to do anything sketchy to me at this late hour. Even if it happens, they will just get the tables turned on them.

Taking all this into consideration, the transition gates to the dungeon's islands have also been generally accepted by everyone with the reasoning being that [If it's that Dukedom King, then I guess it's possible].

In addition to the considerable size of the dungeon, there are many magic beasts and monsters due to the fact that no man has ever visited the island thus far. Though the explorations haven't proceeded much, it seems there are parties that have advanced up to the third underground floor.

As for the guild, they don't seem to be complaining because they can get their hands on valuable materials and treasures even if they haven't advanced the exploration.

I was a little troubled by the fact that the public order has worsened a little due to the number of adventurers increasing. I guess it's expected since there

are also ruffians and hoodlums among the adventurers.

The idiots who are bothering the citizens and who are making false accusations against shop assistants in the whole town have started to appear one after another.

I don't know how things are done in other countries, but I won't go easy on them here. They will be dragged by the knights without any reservation all the way to the [Devil's whisper jail] (a jail that forces the occupant to hear the sound of a blackboard being scratched forever) or to the [Aromatic Smelling Prison] (this one is filled with 1/10th of the smell of a sludge slime) and they spend the night there reflecting on their behaviour.

I'm not saying this for the sake of the dungeon explorers, but I have also built a hospital in the town. It's a facility where recovery specialists who can use light attribute magic and doctors who can diagnose illnesses are stationed. The medicines in this hospital are also specially made by Flora.

The prices had been properly made, but we decided for the medicine to be free for kids who have guardians in this country. In this world, people who are 13 years old or younger are considered as kids. Due to the high cost of treatment, it doesn't seem possible for children to have medical treatment.

Even If I say "free", it just means we aren't taking money. The guardians will have to work for one or two days in this country. Of course, they don't have to do the work if they can pay the money right off the bat.

Some stall vendors lined up in front of the transition gates are selling ointments, ropes, lanterns, emergency rations, and many other things, while other vendors are selling stripping knives, compasses, canteens, and so on in a different place.

I lean into one of the stalls among many various others that have opened near the transition gates and call out to the male merchant.

"Hey. How are the sales going?"

"It's quite promising. It seems I'm likely to forget my main job without noticing it"

This guy is actually a Suppa [The Ninja]. In other words, he is a Takeda

Shinobi, and he's one of Tsubaki-san's subordinates.

He pretends to be a street vendor here to keep an eye on the attitude of the adventurers and to monitor them. In order to not be looked at suspiciously, I whispered while picking up items lined up in his stall.

"Is there any problem?"

"Nothing as of the moment. Several parties have caused some minor quarrels though"

Conflicts caused by the treasures is a common story. It's fine not to worry about those individual problems as long they don't involve unrelated people.

"During the time I've entered the dungeon, only kobolds came out on the first floor. But how does diving into the second floor and deeper feel?"

"Those who appear on the first floor are goblins, kobolds, large rats, large bats, and one horned rabbits. On the second floor, monsters similar to hobgoblins, goblin archers, orcs, and skeletons can be seen. They also say that killer mantises and dullahans appear on the third floor"

Dullahans? We have also fought a low-level dullahan, and they are pretty tough, aren't they? It may be hard fighting them without having anti-undead weapons or a magician who can use light-attribute magic.

"It somehow looks like the monsters that appear in each dungeon are quite different. I feel that [Amaterasu] has more magic beasts, [Tsukuyomi] has more undead, and [Susanoo] has more regular monsters"

The difference between monsters and magic beasts is whether they are beasts or not. Why is it like that? I wonder, are they being isolated from one another? If I'm not mistaken, it may also be related to how one eats while the other gets eaten even among fellow magic beasts. They don't want to live where they have natural enemies.

I thank Suppa-san and head towards the transition gates. There are three gates with each one connected to the entrance of their respective dungeons.

Well, in the end, the destination of the transition will lead to the same place, so it isn't impossible to cross the islands from dungeon to dungeon if someone feels like making a ship or swimming in the sea. Although most of them usually

come back here and enter another transition gate shortly afterward.

Despite the fact that a person needs to present his or her guild card and pay one copper coin every time that person enters the gates, island hopping is still a lot more troublesome.

Someone can get a meal even with a single copper coin. Then I guess, will that have an equivalent worth of a thousand yen? If that's the case, I feel like 2000 yen per night might be too cheap since a day of lodging together with three meals in the [Tsukiyomi] of Leaflet costs two copper coins. However, the costs will reach 60,000 yen when calculating a month's worth. If you think about it that way, does a 60,000 yen rent look affordable? Even if it includes the meals.

In the first place, comparing the value of currency between here and there is meaningless in itself, so I've stopped thinking too much about it.

"Touya-dono"

"Touya-sama!"

"Huh? Yae and Hilda? What's the matter?"

When I turned around due to the surprise call, the swordswomen combo of Yae and Hilda are there. They are very close. Is it because those two often practice together?

"We've agreed upon setting out for a short while to perform an inspection and to train simultaneously. As Hilda-dono expressed, she doesn't possess enough experience of conducting combat against magic beasts and monsters" Yae declared.

"Look, I have also received a guild card! Although it's still black and it can't compare to Yae's card" Hilda followed up.



Hilda looks happy while showing her card. The card's color is black because it's the beginner's level. The Princess Knight of Restia being called beginner is a bad joke though. Yae's card is red since she's already a first class adventurer.

However, it can be said that it's abnormal to climb up that high in a year...

Though it's not something I can say. Since the moment we met, Yae was already strong.

"What is Touya-dono doing in this place?" Yae asked.

"Mn? Ah, inspecting and confirming the security, maybe?" I answered.

"Ah, then why won't you come with us?" Hilda inquired.

"I guess I could. Shall we go then?" I accepted.

We go through the transition gate of [Amaterasu] and exit into the island's sandy beach. Oh mind you, I did pay the admission fee just in case. We might hear [Why do those guys get special treatment?] if we had entered without paying. We would also stand out. Normally I would have used my own [Gate], but I didn't use it in order to check if there is a defect with the transition gate.

This archipelago is made up of seven large and small islands. Though there is no dungeon on the biggest island. Instead, it's being dominated by magic beasts and monsters.

Since there are many plant-based monsters on that island, a person needs to be careful due to the tentative danger. Though there are still people who enter those places, them getting hurt is their own responsibility, and it doesn't concern me. By the way, there seems to be unusual herbs, nuts, and berries on these islands, so collection type requests keep coming out every now and then.

We approach the dungeon's entrance after invoking [Light]. This [Amaterasu] dungeon is the one I've entered first, but right now there seems to be about 40 adventurers inside already. Respectively, it then means that ten parties have dived into the dungeon assuming that each party is made up of four people.

"For such a number to dive in, aren't conflicts bound to happen while they are inside?" Yae wondered.

"It's considerably wide after all. Even if they meet, they will just greet each other and go their own separate ways. Though they might do some negotiations with their medicinal herbs or water" I reassured her.

Three one-horned wolves immediately attack us as we advance through the dungeon. Hilda goes to the front before we do anything and easily defeats all three of them. Oh, it's an easy win for her.

"What shall we do with it? Aren't the horns supposed to turn into raw

materials?"Hilda asked.

"Their meat can't be eaten because it's hard. The skin also doesn't have much use" I answered.

"Is it fine to remove the horn and leave the rest?"Hilda inquired further.

"It should be fine to leave them at the side of the passage so that they won't get in the way. They will eventually become food for other magic beasts, I suppose? Even if they start to decay, slimes will come and melt them" I explained.

Slimes are well-known existences living in every kind of dungeon. Sometimes they also attack people, but they are mostly harmless existences. If I am to somehow describe them, they have an image of being scavengers. They look like they take in and completely dissolve whatever garbage is thrown in the dungeons.

It seems that even corpses and excrements are no exceptions. As a result, the dungeons stay clean to some degree. Our gracious slimes.

Slimes are like that, but for some reason, it doesn't look like they eat the contents of the treasure chests. It also seems that they don't eat metals that much. Come to think of it, sludge slimes also make the water cleaner than before. Depending on the type of slime, I wonder if there are things that it can dissolve and can't dissolve.

Apparently, there is a theory stating that slimes are monsters created by human hands from the era of ancient magic. That might be the case. Should I look it up in the [Library] the next time I'm there?

Hilda drags the corpse of the one-horned wolves to the side and cuts off the horns. Those horns can be sold as material for craftwork, so the guild can buy them from us.

Afterwards, Hilda defeated one-horned rabbits, large bats, and large rats almost by herself. I definitely feel there is a lot of magic beasts, though goblins and kobolds do come out as well.

By the way, I'm not displaying the map. Our purpose is not to conquer the dungeon. I thought that it would be more fascinating this way, but both girls have found the stairs to the second underground floor way too quickly.

After we've descended the stairs, we arrive at a pretty large hall once again. The passage is branching into the right and the left. For the time being, we proceed through the right. There is a crossroad again, and after we pass that, the path is branching once again.

"That reminds me, both a map and a compass are necessary. You might not be able to get out of here if you get lost" Hilda remembered.

Of course, most adventurers properly map the area as they proceed. We're just somehow getting sloppy with regards to these matters since we have [Gate].

As we casually advance, we stumble upon a dead end with double doors. Upon entering the doors, we end up in a small room about 12 tatami mats big. There is a treasure chest in a corner. Don't tell me this room is similar to a monster's private room... In my mind, I imagine the figure of a hero from a game who invades someone's house and selfishly opens the dressers.

Hilda's eyes are sparkling towards her first treasure chest and she tries to open it. I then watch her with awkward eyes.

The contents of the chest include daggers either full of rust or lacking blades. There are a lot of daggers. I suppose it's expected that there wouldn't be any expensive items here. However, why are there so many daggers..... Is the owner a dagger maniac? Come to think of it, creatures like crows and dogs do collect some incomprehensible things...

"I'm disappointed....." Hilda's spirit slumped.

"Well, real treasures can't be found that easily" I responded.

"I beg you to withhold that thought for a moment. Isn't this item a silver dagger?" Yae points out.

It's covered with dust and is blackish on the bottom of the treasure chest, but it certainly is a silver dagger. Although it's a simple dagger without any fine decorations, it's possible that it can be purchased from us. Oh well, a treasure is a treasure as they say.

"I don't think it will fetch a huge price, but will you still sell it?" I asked.

"No, I will keep this as a memory of today. A memory of the day I became an adventurer." Hilda answered.

Hilda puts the dagger inside her waist pouch. I suppose it's fine to not sell it if that's what she wants.

I'm thinking that way while looking at the happily smiling Hilda.

Chapter 188: Reorganization, and a Wyvern

"And, is it good with this?"

"Fuaah.....。 You're absurd as usual....."

I finished renovating [Silver Moon] and jumped off from the rooftop.

The lodging became insufficient after the number of adventurers increased, so I renovated and extended [Silver Moon] and built the second branch as well.

The second branch is a cheap inn with more rooms. Furthermore, it has been certified by the guild, thus making it an inn for adventurers. The place was also made to be near the transition gates.

On the other hand, I had setup the head branch to be a little more expensive in order to keep it as the main lodging for travelers and peddlers. Naturally, it's by no means a ripoff since it made a fresh start as an inn that offers comfort together with the appropriate facilities.

"Just when I was thinking that you came in saying [Please let me renovate it a little], for it to be finished in 2-3 hours..... Words can't describe how amazed I am"

"It's really amazing ~nee....."

The proprietress Mika-san and employee Furueru-san are looking at the newborn [Silver Moon] with blank faces.

"All that's left is, I wonder, how many employees should we hire for this inn that's larger than before?"

"Ah, I have some applicants if that's the case. There are several acquaintances from Leaflet who say they want to work here"

Mika-san's acquaintances? There is no problem then. I go to Leaflet town with Mika-san by [Gate] at once and talk with several of her acquaintances. Since we've asked them to come to Brunhild once they are ready to move, we should be fine on the worker's side with this.

Some people have even said they want to start working immediately, so we've decided to ask them to temporarily return to their homes and have them

come back together with their luggage. We are going to take them along when we return to the dukedom.

While we are waiting, Mika-san informs her father, Doran-san, of the current news after a long time has passed. I've decided to take a little walk so that I won't bother them.

While walking in Leaflet which I haven't visited for a long time, I'm thinking about the future of Brunhild.

"I guess all that's left is the replenishment of weapons, armor, and maybe some tools, right? Alba-san's local business is also likely doing its best. If it's transportation by carriage from Brunhild, it will take some time no matter what"

I have given up on it once, but in the end, should I make a car? No, a train would be better in that case, but..... the speed of a horse-drawn carriage is higher. If its loading capacity is increased, then..... Ah, won't it be fine to apply [Gravity] to make the carriage's frame light in that case?

I see. I guess it will be fine to create a solid and light frame for an all-purpose carriage. If it's Alba-san, he will likely buy it even if it's expensive. The loading capacity will be far larger if I also apply a simple [Storage] on it as well.

How many vehicles should I try making? Like the [Coach of Perfect Safety] for the exclusive use of a royal family or any other important person. That reminds me, there are no horses in our household's castle. That's because we always use [Gate] for traveling.

All things set aside, It seems like the dungeons are successful. It doesn't look like people are dying so far, but heavily injured people do appear occasionally. Once they descend to the first floor, the power of the magic beasts and monsters in that dungeon immediately rises. Should they show a gap and cannot make that assessment, it will result in them receiving a painful retaliation.

Going by the rumors, it seems like adventurers have broken through up to the fourth floor of [Amaterasu]. Apparently, there were parties that obtained some treasure as well. With this, the number of adventurers diving into the dungeons might increase again.

As I walk while thinking about that, I then have come as far as the front of Zanakku-san's clothing store, so I try paying it a visit for a bit. How nostalgic. It's the first store I entered after I arrived in this world.

However, it surely has been remodeled a great deal. The store has become twice as big. Well, it looks like they are selling things like bathing suits and uniforms. They should be earning enough.

"Welcome. Nice to see you in the "Fashion King Zanakku""

When I enter the shop, an employee onee-san welcomes me with a smile. This employee, she probably cannot help doing something like that, right.....

This store has also started a branch in Brunhild. I can now say with confidence that its signboard is remarkably gaudy.

I ask the clerk-san to call Zanakku-san, and before long, the person himself appears from the back of the store.

"Well-well-well. Hello there, Your Majesty The Sovereign King. Is there something wrong for you to have come this far to Leaflet?"

"We are still looking to increase the number of workers at our [Silver Moon]. In fact, I have come to invite some of Mika-san's acquaintances. Since I had some time to spare, I've decided to pay this shop a visit for a short while"

"My goodness. So, does that mean that you would like to order a uniform for the new employees? "

Ah, that's right. I forgot about it. How should I say this? As expected of a skillful trader as usual.

I can't say anything for now since I don't know their sizes, so it has been decided that the order will come from the branch store in Brunhild somewhere in the near future.

"Oh yeah, I thought that I should ask His Majesty, but..... As a matter of fact, there is an order for a dress from a noble-sama in Rodomea, but they are requesting for an unusual, unique design, unlike any others. If it's His Majesty, I wonder if you have the knowledge about that sort of thing...."

"A design of a dress, you say? U~n..... Ah, can you lend me several papers?"

While the clerk-san is bringing in the paper, I take out the smartphone, search

for dresses in the net and pick out several designs. After that, I transcript approximately 20 dresses using [Drawing] and give them to Zanakku-san.

"This~, I certainly haven't seen anything like that..... If we use this, the other party will also be satisfied"

"Well, this article is unmistakably a dress that even the royal family doesn't have. If you recommend something along those lines, you will be able to come to an agreement, right? "

What such noble is searching for is most likely a one-of-a-kind dress, so they would surely be pleased if it's something not even the royal family has.

As I'm drawing the designs for the mittens and shoes that match those dresses, a single man suddenly enters the store with a force almost as if he is smashing through the door. Just when I'm thinking who it is, isn't it Balar-san from [Weapon Shop Bear Eight]? I was surprised. It's as if a bear suddenly entered a shop....

"Ma~, Master Zanakku! A dragon! A dragon has appeared! Quickly escape!"
"Wha~ ! ? "

A dragon!? As I jump outside the store in confusion, there is a flying green dragon darkening the skies.

It has red eyes on a rugged green scales and a great number of fiendish-looking thorns adorn its tail. Its size is approximately the same as the black dragon I've met before. One thing that is different is that this green dragon has two back legs and large wings instead of its forefeet in comparison to the black dragon who has four legs. Is that a subspecies of a dragon, a [Wyvern]?
(TL: written as “飛竜” (Hiryu[Flying dragon]), read as “ワイバーン” – wyvern)

"Gogaaaaaaa ! ! "

Each time the wyvern roars, the town falls into panic. It then spits out large flame bullets from its mouth after it raises its crooked neck to the ground.

"Hey~"

I leap into the sky with [Fly] and stop in between of those flame bullets it has attacked with. I then invoke magic while holding my hand out.

"Absorb"

I absorb those lump of flames as I restore them back to magic power. It's a non-attribute magic [Absorb]. This magic reverts a phenomenon that has been created with magic into magic power and absorbs it. A dragon-breath attack converts the magic power inside the body into fire-attribute magic. If that's the case, it should be possible to absorb it too.

However, it was really dangerous. Should the town been hit, it might have turned into a sea of flames by now!

"KURUAAAAAAAAAAA ! ! "

The wyvern turns its angry eyes here simply because I'm being a hindrance. This rascal. I'm the one who's feeling angry now.

I instantly accelerate, draw near the wyvern and give it a kick in the guts. I also simultaneously invoke on it the magic that increases its weight.

"Gravity"

Losing its flying ability with a jerk due to the sudden increase of its own weight, the wyvern falls down to the central street. The street has already been evacuated so there is no damage.

All the while, the wyvern is trying to escape from the curse of weight some way or another, but as I also land on its back vigorously while having my own weight increased with [Gravity]. As such, its backbone breaks with a snap and it dies.

"Good grief..... What a troublemaker"

Cheers erupt from the town while I'm looking at the body of the dragon that's no longer moving. Relieved townspeople start approaching the location where I and the defeated wyvern are.

"Good gracious.... As I've thought, this is amazing. To defeat a flying dragon just like that.... We've been saved due to His Majesty staying in this town"

Zanakku-san murmurs while gazing at the dead wyvern. Balar-san opens his eyes wide and looks in my direction. From the opposite to the spectators' side, Mika-san and Doran-san come rushing too.

"This is..... You have defeated something unthinkable... again. I'm glad that the town was not damaged, but... By the way, what are you going to do now with it?"

"I don't particularly need it. That's right. I will offer its meat to Doran-san's place. I'm certain that dragon meat has good flavor based from what I've heard. Its skin will go to Zanakku-san. It should become materials for items like a leather jacket or so. The bones will go to Balar-san. I believe they will be considerably useful as raw materials for your weapons "

Everyone slowly gapes at what I've said, but eventually Mika-san draws closer in panic.

"Wa~ Wa~ Wait, do you understand!? Dragons are the source of supreme raw materials, you know!? Are you okay with giving them up just like that!?"

"I currently don't need them. These should help everyone, right? It's not a form of repayment, but I will be glad if you receive it."

I've only spent a short time in this town, but I've learned various things here. Therefore, I'm certainly indebted to the people here. It will calm me if they can receive and be delighted with something like this.

"Ah, please be careful when tearing off the thorns on the tail. It looks like they have poison on them"

"E~to, is that so? I understand"

Doran-san promptly starts to handle the wyvern deftly with a stripping knife.

However, why did this wyvern appear here?..... If it was looking for something to eat, there should be a lot of one-horned wolves if it went to the forest south from here. It's like it had pin pointedly aimed at this place.

I've heard from Rerisha-san that this should be related to the eyewitnesses reports of dragon sightings frequently happening these days.

Low-ranked dragons were said to have appeared in Yuuron, Nokia and Sandora. Though this wyvern is a subspecies, it's also a low-ranked dragon. Are the low-ranked dragons beginning to attack humans? It seems like it's no mistake that something is happening to the dragons.....

"What's this?"

Doran-san raises his voice while stripping off the scales. Right after the head has been removed, it looks like he had seen something at the part of the head where he tried to strip the skin off.

When I peek at the spot Doran-san is looking at, there is something driven right into the central part of the skull. Upon carefully pulling it out, we've noticed that it's a needle about 30cm in length. Though its size is closer to a skewer rather than a needle. It seems that it has reached as far as the brain. I can feel the magic power it is carrying for some reason.

"Was, by chance, the dragon being manipulated with this?"

While looking at the suspicious skewer that has been erupted, I've started sweating unpleasantly while wondering if this possibly isn't an artifact that fell down from the [Warehouse] too. I then put it away inside the [Storage]. I should try asking Shizuka's group about it later. They might know something about it.

However, that's a problem. If this is an artifact that has the power to manipulate dragons, then what happened today is a result of a wire-puller manipulating those guys from somewhere.

Fuu, I have a premonition that something troublesome is bound to happen again. My premonition is somehow god-like when it comes to things like these, much to my regret.

Chapter 189: The Echo Needle of Domination and the Azure Dragon

"If I am to say it clearly, this is surely not an invention of professor Babylon" (Shizuka)

"Are you saying it isn't an object that fell from the [Warehouse]?" (Touya)

"Yes"(Shizuka)

A wyvern has been defeated at Leaflet. When I showed Shizuka the skewer which had been stuck to it, she then declared that. Rosetta takes the skewer that was left behind, looks at it for a while and then says something.

"This is the [Echo Needle of domination]. An article of professor Erks" (Rosetta)

"Erks ? "(Touya)

"Professor Debora Erks. She was a person referred to as a master of magic crafts in Paruteno. Well, she's inferior to Professor Babylon by a huge margin" (Rosetta)

There was a person like that? I sigh in relief knowing that it isn't an item that has come from the [Warehouse]. Well, it seems there's no need for me to particularly feel responsible. In the end, how a tool is going to be used is dependent on who is going to use it. So if I say who's the worst one here, it would be the person who has understood how it works and still has chosen to use it.

Whether it's the [Jewel of Immortality], the [Imbibe demon bracelet] or the [Bracelet of defense], the people almost lost their minds because of the power they have gained and destroyed themselves. And there are also people like the founding king of Restia who has managed to master the holy sword and become a king adored by his people.

Well, even if that's how it is, it doesn't mean that I won't charge the manager of [Warehouse] with the responsibility for it.

"What do I say about professor Erks? She held a strong enmity towards professor Babylon. Speaking about the artifacts made by this girl, professor

Babylon had impressions like [It's powerful, but it's safety measures are defective], [Although it's very versatility, the burden is being forced on the user], [New, but hardly interesting] whenever she allowed the professor to say anything about them"(Rosetta)

"It seems that professor Babylon was inviting excessive hostility due to her easily making items of higher quality than that of professor Erks" (Shizuka)

It's just how that professor is. I am sure she was substantially teasing her.

Similar to Oda Nobunaga and Akechi Mitsuhide, I guess geniuses and prodigies are incompatible with each other. I think that professor Babylon might have not even regarded the other side as an opponent. How pitiful.

"So, what is this [Echo Needle of Domination]?" (Touya)

"It's a magic tool 《Artifact》 used to control magic beasts. When it's loaded with magic and driven in their heads, this article allows the user to freely control the magic beasts. Though it draws out the power of the magic beasts to their limits, it does so in exchange for the beasts' lifespan. I've heard that it had the possibility of harming the user's mind since the magic beast's and user's minds are forcibly connected. As such, it was eventually discarded" (Rosetta)

I see. Although it's powerful, it's safety is troublesome. It's due to the burden it imposes on the user, right? I suppose it's exactly right that. However, I don't think she has any right to say anything about that person's invention though because Babylon had also made something like the [Jewel of Immortality].

Somehow, doesn't that mean that the user of the wyvern is using that item without knowing anything about it?

However, a dragon? It's would be troublesome if someone can gather a number of those creatures who are considered to be the strongest living beings. It looks like it's going to be troublesome should a dragon similar to the red dragon from the sanctuary of Misumido assault us. I can't imagine a dragon who possess high intelligence to be controlled like this though.

[Lord. Is now a good time?]

"Eh? Kougyoku? What's wrong?"

Kougyoku comes in through the window. She turns her crimson eyes towards me after landing on the table.

[In my humble opinion, it should be a good idea to try summoning the [Blue Emperor] and ask him about things related to dragons]

By the [Blue Emperor], is she referring to the companion of Kohaku's group? One of the four deities. The Seiryu of the East.... Was it? If I am not mistaken, Kohaku is the ruler of beasts, Sango and Kokuyou are the rulers of scaled creatures, while Kougyoku is the ruler of birds, and they are the divine beasts. However, aren't magic beasts not included in their domains?

[Strictly speaking, dragons are not magic beasts. They are a type of beasts by themselves and they are dependents of the blue emperor. Aside from them, there are also the likes of lizards and alligators. Those beasts are barely covered by Kokuyou and Sango's domain. Either way, I've thought "if we are going against dragons, why not call him?". I also haven't seen the face of the Blue Emperor for a long time]

[Lord! I am against that!]

Dogannn! Kohaku jumps into the room in his large tiger form after slamming the door. Oi! How many times did I tell him not to get big inside the castle!?

[If it's the Lord, he can solve this problem even if he doesn't summon this unpleasant fellow! Please reconsider it!]

What's going on!? Or rather don't approach me when you're in your huge form as you are now. You're scary. It's as if I am going to be eaten.

[Leaving aside the issue of unpleasantness, isn't being a Blue Emperor a qualification already?](Sango)

[Kohaku-chan is on bad terms with Sei-chan you know. I guess it's desperation. Pupupu] (Kokuyou)

Sango and Kokuyou also come in while swimming in the air. Oh I see, is it like that?

[Guuu, that's true but..... Don't you understand that things will be troublesome if that fellow comes in between us! That person is being uncooperative by uttering nothing but only far-fetched things! Ahhh, I am getting furious just by remembering that Blue Emperor!] (Kohaku)

Just when I thought that Kohaku had gotten smaller, he began rampaging on

the carpet like a kid throwing a tantrum. He is completely bringing out his personal feeling, with this.

[An impulsive Kohaku and a rational Blue Emperor are like water and oil. Can I say they don't get well rather than just being on bad terms? I do think that they respect each other's good points, but both of them are still stubborn]

(Kougyoku)

[Who is! If I am to recognize that one, it will only be Blue's clever mouth and insensibility of not being able to read the mood!](Kohaku)

Kohaku gets on the table and shouts at Kougyoku who is explaining. Oh, good grief. I think this talk doesn't look like it's progressing in any way.

"I understand Kohaku's argument, but let's try summoning that person for now" (Touya)

[No way~](Kohaku)

"Well, look, I'm not really saying for you to forcibly be friends. Ah, although it's fine if you quarrel at a certain degree, I would punish the two of you if you guys seriously fight each other" (Touya)

I take Kohaku who is feeling reluctant along, and go out to the courtyard. Fortunately, there is no one in the courtyard, so we decide to finish the summoning now without any delay.

I draw a summoning formation in the courtyard with a magic stone chalk and pour magic power with darkness attribute in it.

While confirming that the black fog which appeared inside the summon formation is gradually getting darker, we slowly mix the magic power of Kohaku's group in it. With this, the preparations are complete.

"Oh the one ruling the spring and trees, east and larger rivers. Answer my call, make your appearance here"

The magic power in the middle of the summoning formation swelled up in one go, and a huge blue dragon appeared from within the black fog. It has sapphire-like scales with clear blue eyes and big wings that give the presence of a king. Unlike a wyvern, it has proper forefeet. It's not an [Eastern Dragon]. It's undeniably a 《Dragon》.

(TLC: a play on words of “龍” and “竜”. Both mean dragon. But former implies a

chinese dragon, while the latter – western dragon)

[.....Fumu. Just when I thought I've felt a nostalgic spirit, it were you guys, weren't you? What's the situation here for all of us to meet in this kind of place?]

A calm voice sweeps forth from Seiryu. The voice somehow brings an image of a woman that's close to how a female teacher or a career woman would sound like.

[Long time no see, Blue Emperor] (Sango)

[Sei-chan, long time no see~] (Kuroyou)

[It's good you look fine more than anything else, Blue Emperor] (Kougyoku)

While Sango, Kuroyou, Kougyoku greets Seiryu, Kohaku is the only one who turns his face away and clicks his tongue. Oi-Oi, don't you think that your attitude is a bit rude?

[Fumu. There seems to be a small fry who can't even greet, but I will forgive him. I am big-hearted after all] (Seiryu)

[Dimwit It's this Blue Lizard! Are you saying you're big-hearted!? How dare you say that, you, with your warped personality that spits out malicious words!]
(Kohaku)

[Are you saying that I'm warped? Then wouldn't that make your personality twisted like a wheel?] (Seiryu)

[What did you say!?] (Kohaku)

"Yes yes, stop right here" (Touya)

I pick up Kohaku that seems ready jump anytime now by the nape of his neck and look up at Seiryu. Although this one has its puzzled eyes look here, it soon opens its mouth.

[Can I presume that you're the one who summoned me? What's your name?]
(Seiryu)

"Mochizuki Touya. I am the King of this country" (Touya)

[Hohou. Even if I can understand the Flame Emperor's case, I am wondering how you got the cooperation of the White Emperor and Genbu's pair though]
(Seiryu)

[It's not a cooperation or anything. He is our honorable master, you know?]

(Kuroyou)

[.....What?] (Seiryu)

Seiryu's stops moving due to Kuroyou's remark. It's looking at me with eyes that have seen something unbelievable.

Suddenly, Seiryu emits a staggering intimidation. However, it didn't have a great impact on me. The reminds me, this is similar to when I summoned Kohaku. Seiryu eventually stops emitting an intimidating force and then exhales a little.

[.....I can certainly feel an unusual presence but..... Who are you?]

The one who replies to the question of the Seiryu isn't me. It is Kohaku whom I've picked up in my hand.

[How about you confirm it by yourself if you have doubts, Blue Emperor. It's our Lord's intention to form a contract with you after all. Don't you want to try out the power that we obey?] (Kohaku)

[Mm.... It's annoying to listen to that cajoling mouth of yours but... I'm definitely curious. That's fine. Why not try out this person's ability?] (Seiryu)

At that moment, I didn't miss the broad grin on Kohaku's face. I can generally understand what he's thinking but...

Since it's too cramped in the courtyard, I draw a considerably larger summoning formation in the western plains and call Seiryu again.

On that plain, both I and Seiryu will face each other one-to-one. We also shouldn't bother the surrounding areas here, and the spectators are only the other divine beasts.

"Then, what are we going to do? Is it fine if we fight?"

[Fumu. Well, I guess that's right. It's fine as long as I understand your ability. Ah, I won't kill you so be relieved]

After hearing that line, all the other divine beasts burst into a huge laughter. They're even trembling. Are they grinning?

"Well, I guess it's fine, isn't it? I'm coming. Are you ready?"

[Don't worry. Come to me anytime you want]

"Then I won't hold back. [Accel Boost]"

I kick the ground at once and approach Seiryu at the highest speed. It will be troublesome if he flies after all. Let's end this fight quickly before that happens.

[Whaaa.....!?]

"Gravity"

[Gufuuu!?]

I touched Seiryu's body, and activate the weight magic. In a blink of an eye, the blue dragon is being sewn onto the ground and is cowering on its place. Beat it before it can fly. This is common sense.

[Guuu.....! W-what is this magic.....! Such... such powerful magic, why are you this cool-headed.....!?]

[Kuhahahaha! Oh Blue Emperor, you have misread the Lord's ability! Didn't you have any doubts when you saw us being manifested this way when we should normally be summoned?]

[!]

Seiryu widely opens its eyes in surprise. Kohaku is speaking happily while running around the unmoving dragon. You're too much in high spirits, all-right.

[Now that you mentioned it.....! Absurd..... While keeping all you guys summoned, and keeping you manifested at the same time.....! How much magic power is being consumed!?]

[Kukuku. Let me tell you something good. The lord's magic power doesn't decrease even a single bit after summoning us and letting us exist freely. In fact, it won't even matter even if the lord employs hundreds of summoned beasts all at the same time]

[N-no way.....!]

[Hahahahaa! That sorry look! Did you learn your place?! This is our Lord, Mochizuki Touya-sama's ability!! I remember someone saying that "I won't kill you so be relieved"!]

It certainly is like that. You don't have to say it though, you know... More than that, I would like you to stop doing mean things. You're like a fox borrowing the

power of a tiger. Or rather, you are a tiger yourself.

[You seem happy, Kohaku-chan] (Kuroyou)

[Well, It's like I don't understand your feelings but...] (Sango)

[You should withdraw from there a little...] (Kougyoku)

Look here. Everyone else is drawing back.

Since Kohaku incites it without even caring, Seiryu tries to force its body to stand up even if it has to put up some effort to do that. The shivering knees and tail support the body, so the dragon somehow manages to stand up. Oh, not bad.

However, when I further increase the weight, Seiryu once again crawls over the ground.

[Gu-guuufuu.....!]

"I would like you to give up soon though?"

[.....I-I under-stand. It is my defe-at. I will make a contract with you]

I immediately release [Gravity] after hearing those words. The weight magic disappears, and Seiryu stands up quietly.

[I was being rude for not being able to see through that power of yours. Mochizuki Touya-sama. Please make a master and servant contract with me and bestow upon me a new name]

"A name? That's right.... Kohaku, Sango, Kuroyou, Kougyoku sound like treasures... Then as expected, should yours be [Ruli""]?

[[Ruli]..... is it?]

"Yup. It is called Lapis Lazuli. It's the name of a blue gem, and written with [瑠璃] when using the words of my country"

Kougyoku means "Ruby" so I've thought of using "Sapphire". But if I'm not mistaken, I've been told that [Seigyoku] or possibly [Aogyoku] are being used for Sapphire. It would surely overlap with Kougyoku, so Ruli sounds fine.

[I understand. From now on, please call me [Ruli]] (Ruli)

"Um. My best regards. Ah, also, don't quarrel with Kohaku that much or else both of you will be punished otherwise" (Touya)

[I will endure it as much as possible] (Ruli)

[I'm the one who will be enduring it!](Kohaku)



Kohaku snaps immediately. Ah mou~, those guys are already at it.

Ruli changes into the appearance of a small dragon the same way as with

Kohaku's group. I sigh at the two who are staring at each other in that state.

"Why are you two in such bad terms anyway?"

[These are just ill feelings between fellow women. Even Master would be burned if he steps in that area]

"Good grief..... Women are scary even as summoned beasts....."

While agreeing on what Kuroyou have said who in turn is laughing and giggling, I suddenly notice something and stop moving..... What did he say just now?

".....Eh? Huh? Fellow women? Wait a minute! You guys, what are your gender anyway?"

[Everyone of us are females]

[Don't lie. You are a male, right?]

Sango makes a tsukkomi at Kuroyou's remarks. Ya, I kinda get it with Kuroyou having that kind of character though. Are there no other males besides him?

.....That's bad. I was sure that Kohaku was male..... Come to think of it, her voice is a bit high.....

I better keep quiet for now. Yumina and others should probably know about this, right? Let's ask them later..... I would be able to tell whether she's a lion and not a tiger though....

Chapter 190: The Dragon Rebellion and an Unjustified Resentment

[There are also different types of dragons, so I can't really generalize them]

Ruli says that remark as an introduction. In the first place, Ruli says that she cannot do anything about the [Echo Needle of Domination] if we assume that dragons are being controlled by it. However, she has also said that when it comes to high-ranking dragons, like the so-called elder dragons, they probably cannot be dominated by that artifact due to them having a powerful willforce.

The dragons evolve rather than grow and become adults. They start as Infant Dragons. Then, they become Young Dragons. Afterwards, they become Adult Dragons. Further than that, they become Elder Dragons. And finally, when they become more than that, they turn into Ancient Dragons.

However, only species referred to as "high-ranking dragons" can evolve into Elder Dragons, and the Low-Ranking Dragons referred to as "wyverns" can never evolve.

The difference in intelligence is also extreme, the young dragon (This applies to the black dragon I had defeated) can understand human words but can't say them. Only the Elder Dragons and the Ancient Dragons can't be controlled by the [Echo Needle of Domination]. If that's how it is, isn't their number quite dangerous?

[Since dragons aren't that numerous in the first place, is there any need to worry about it?]

[The Dragons, even the young ones, are strong by themselves, so there's little danger for them to be defeated. Therefore it's not needed for them to bear a lot of children like all of you weak beasts. Their numbers are fairly reasonable even if I say that they are few. But I think it's sheer stupidity to leave them alone though, don't you agree?]

[What did you say!?!]

I started to think while being fed up due to Kohaku and Ruli quarreling again.

Somehow I'm quite concerned. How should I say this? That wyvern didn't feel like it's being manipulated. It felt like he was rampaging by its own will..... No, since low-ranked dragons are not that intelligent, maybe it was left to move by its instinct.

"In any case, why not go and ask about their circumstances? The red dragon seems to be in Misumido's Sanctuary"

Since the Red Dragon looks like an Elder Dragon, he most likely won't be manipulated by the [Echo Needle of Domination].

For the time being, I transfer to Misumido with Ruli. I then start flying to the place called "Sanctuary" with [Fly] without changing my destination.

"If I'm not mistaken, the whole forest spreading at the middle of the central part of the mountain area is the sanctuary, right?"

If that's the case, we should have already entered this Sanctuary. Woops, has someone come to meet us already?

I then stop in the air and see a huge red dragon coming towards us from the opposite side. That's the red dragon I met when I killed the black dragon back then.

Ruli, who is next to me, returns to her original size. The red and blue dragons stood against each other in the air

[In order to pay respect for the Blue Emperor-sama with regards to the manifestation this time, I congratulate you]

[The reason why I have been summoned though is to clean after the household of you guys. So I wonder, do you understand why we have come here?]

[Ha! For the incompetence this one is guilty of, I am truly sorry]

The red dragon closes his eyes and bows. We go straight below and decide to talk with the red dragon there.

At first, the young dragons have rampaged. Hearing this, they look to be the same as the black dragon we have defeated. The dragons are strong and wise in general, but sometimes, their pride due to their origin becomes an issue.

They are saying that "We're stronger than anyone else, and we're the apex of

evolution". Even if they're living in the sanctuary, there are some troublemakers that descend upon where people live and do bad things. Even if they were to say that it's a "Mistake due to youth" the damage done is enormous. But that's because there are always some youngsters who defy the adults in any world.

This kind of people always exist. Yet even if this is one of the so-called 'rebellious stages', it has never been a problem.

For this occasion however, it has been going on since the time i've killed that black dragon.

"Eh, what is that?"

[That Black Dragon was an underling even among the young dragons, but they still couldn't stay silent after their comrade was killed. The young dragons raised their voices for a prompt retaliation]

"What the hell are they saying? Wasn't he the one that first came out from the sanctuary and burned the village?"

[Of course, only a portion of the young dragons were saying that while the others warned that bunch we shouldn't cause disputes with mankind. At that time, those guys that had raised their voices were unwilling, but they still withdrew]

However, the story didn't end with that. Apart from the dragons living in Misumido's Sanctuary, there are several places in the world where dragons live.

One of those places is to the southwest from here. Beyond the Great Forest Sea, a small island called "Drachen Island" lies in between the Sandora Kingdom and the Lail Kingdom.

(TLC: So, the author used katakana ドラゴネス for island's name which is roughly saying "Dragons/Dragones", but since the word "Dragon" is gonna be used soooo much, we will switch this island's name to german version(purely artistical decision) of "Drachen" for differentiation's sake, consider it our liberty of translation)

One day, a dragon messenger from "Drachen Island" came to the Sanctuary stating that the dragons there became subordinates to the [Dragon King]. He said that "Interference is unnecessary".

"Dragon King? Huh? Aren't the dragons under Ruli's control?"

[That's how it usually is. In other words, that situation was not normal. To begin with, I was the one who determined that we shouldn't cause huge wars with humankind as much as possible. This is also the first time it was frankly defied like that]

[It's because many thousands of years have already passed since the Blue Emperor-sama passed away. Some of the young dragons don't even know about her existence after all]

Kohaku and the others, who are called divine beasts, manifest in this world once every few decades or centuries. This time though, they have been summoned by a human. It's an event that doesn't happen that much. I guess that time with Kohaku was a coincidence, but then after that, I have summoned them specifically.

It seems that Ruli, who is the ruler of dragons, didn't manifest herself for a long time even among the divine beasts. Well, dragons do have long lives after all.

"And who is this person calling himself the [Dragon King]? Is he one of those [Ancient Dragons]?"

[No, he seems to be a man of the Dragon Clan. It's said that he arrived at "Drachen Island", dominated the young dragons, and massacred the [Elder Dragons] living on that Island. I've also heard that the remaining Adult Dragons were subdued with force]

The Dragon Clan, is it? There is no doubt about it. That man dominated the dragons in the island using the [Echo Needle of Domination]. He then killed the [Elder Dragons] he couldn't control by using the same dragons that were under his control.

[When they heard of the power the Dragon King could grant them and that they could do as they please while not being tied by the laws, all the young dragons who were dissatisfied with our sanctuary went to the Island. After coming back, they had already acquired the power that we couldn't restrain. There are only a few who have yet to return here, but they may start rampaging around here soon]

The Dragons have already rampaged in Leaflet Town and the Sandora

Kingdom. It's more like the young dragons have already started to run wild. They try to kill people for fun and do whatever they please to the towns where people live. These guys are the same as that black dragon.

[What a pathetic story. In only a few thousand years, for my dependents to have become foolish to that extent...]

[There is no words I can reply with.....]

"I see..... I understood the rough story. Apparently, the ringleader is that [Dragon King], but the dragons themselves wished to start the fight with humans. Or rather, you won't have any complaints even if I exterminate them, right?"

[....."The Dragon who forgets his pride is even less than a lizard ". Those are the words of the Blue Emperor-sama. Those guys are no longer dragons. I will obey the intention even if you desire to dispose them however you wish]

[Pride and arrogance are similar. They have so much pride that it becomes arrogance the moment they start looking down on others. I too had a painful experience recently]

Ruli said that while looking at me. It may be an impossible story to those who are seeking the dragons, but the saying [The boughs that bear the most hang the lowest] is something that doesn't seem to describe them.

(TL:<http://kotowaza-allguide.com/mi/minoruhodokoube.html>)

However, humans aren't stupid. No matter how strong the dragons are, even humans can win against a dragon if they confront it in a group. Unlike Frazes, magic is effective against dragons. If there's an advanced wind mage among this group, he can even drag and drop the dragon to the ground.

Still, it's certain that the damage will be huge though. I heard from Captain Garun of Misumido that 100 warriors are necessary to hunt one, right?

Nevertheless, the result will still change depending on whether there's a magician and if skilled warriors join. Recruiting that many people won't be a problem if it's a capital or a big city, but small towns are unfortunate because there aren't many people of such calibre there.

They may have remarkable adventurers there if they are lucky, but even that in itself would still be difficult. They can obtain the title of [Dragon Slayer] if

they defeat a dragon with a party of five or less. Very strong adventurers..... Those five people have to be at least red rank adventurers.

"Now then, since it came to this, I'm getting suspicious whether there really is a [burden placed in the mind of its user] in that [Echo Needle of Domination]"

Rather than dominating others by connecting their minds, it feels more like those dragons are just allowed to do whatever they want.

Perhaps for the dragons, driving this needle can increase their power beyond the limit. Though I wonder, do they even know that it has the side effect of shaving away their life span?

It may be something trivial for dragons that live for thousands of years though.

"The fastest solution might be to do something about that [Dragon King]. Huh? But even if I defeat him, is there something that I can do to the rampaging dragons?"

I guess it's not like the dragons will also die if the dragon king dies. On the contrary, will they only escape from the dominating force completely? I guess, their end will likely be the same even if they are dominated though. Whatever happens, there's no way I will leave them alone.

"For now, shall I try looking at the dragons' movements?"

I bring out the map and try searching for dragons. There are plenty of them! I guess it's like that, right? Their numbers are moderate no matter how few you say they are. I don't understand it like this. Let's narrow it down a bit. Let's see... dragons who are struck by the [Echo Needle of Domination]...

The [Echo Needle of Domination] has a shape similar to a marking pin. The head of the needle is exposed to the outside, so I can probably search for it since it can be seen from the outside.

As I've thought, I can search for them. Nevertheless, there are still many of them..... It feels like they are distributed all over the world doing whatever they like. As expected, there are many dominated dragons on the Drachen Island. Eh?

"This is.....!?"

It seems that they flew out from Drachen Island. A group with considerable numbers is heading straight towards someplace else. What is their.....

"Are those guys aiming for Brunhild!?"

What does that mean? Don't tell me, is this some sort of revenge for the Black Dragon? However, why in the world do they know about me?

Have they perhaps been taught by that [Dragon King]? The [Dragon Slayer] who defeated the Black Dragon in Misumido, he would immediately find out if he tried investigating about it. In that case, the aim of this group is.....

"Ruli. Everyone is in danger. We're going back. Now!"

[As you command]

Is this act an unjustified resentment of the dragons? Bring it on! Whoever they are or whatever it is, may it be dragons or anyone else, don't think you can get away without suffering the consequences after making a move on my country.

I will utterly crush those conceited bunch.

Chapter 191: The Dragon Raid, and the Knights' Power

"Because of this, a swarm of dragons is coming here soon. Since they're troublesome, we'll quickly finish them off"

"Baba-dono... I...don't know how should I retort to this"

"Be relieved Yamagata. I also don't know"

At the conference room, Yamagata-Ossan and Baba-Jiisan turn their eyes filled with amazement towards me.

We've immediately gathered the executives from the knight order and explained the current situation after arriving to Brunhild well ahead before the dragons by using [Gate]. Everyone turns their eyes to me all at the same time. Before long, the vice-commander, Nicola-san, exhales as if he's calming himself down, and quickly gets up from his seat.

"P-please wait a minute, your Majesty. By "dragons", you mean the ones who breathe fire from their mouth and fly in the skies? You are talking about those dragons?"

"Yup, those dragons. Apparently, some idiots have become cocky and are coming here to destroy our country"

"That.....swarm you say, about how many are there.....?"

"About 20 normal dragons, I think? I also guess that there are about a hundred pterosaurs that look like wyverns. Their numbers aren't that big compared to the Frazes from the other day, right?"

""No no no""

When the Commander Rain-san nervously raises her hand and asks a question which I then answer, and both she and Nicola-san start waving their hands in denial in front of me.

"You know, it will be like that, right? His Majesty will be the one who finishes them off, right?"

Norun-san says so with a slightly stiffen face. Her wolf ears are shaking and trembling.

"I did think of doing that at first, but then I thought "Why not to use this opportunity?"

"Use?"

"That's right. I thought of conducting a joint training for the knight order. Aren't the dragons good enough opponents for this?"

"Eeh!?"

Rain-san utters an astonished cry. Honestly speaking, I believe our household's knight order is quite strong, but magic beasts are few around here, and we are surrounded by Belfast and Regulus that are both friendly. There's almost no opportunity for battles. For that reason, I expect them to gain some experience during this situation.

"Our household's knight order doesn't reach even a hundred people even if we include the intelligence agency, you know!? Unless we pair one human against one dragon, it will be unreasonable! Furthermore, how can we even fight someone that flies in the sky?!"

"I'll bring down those who will be flying. All that's left is for everyone to be careful of their breath. You guys should be able to cope with it though in some way or another since the shields of the knight order are imbued with a heat-resistant barrier"

""one way or another," you say....."

I've taken several safety measures just in case. I also plan to include the divine beasts and us to support the knights. To be frank, I don't think the enemies will be that easy to defeat.

Even if that's true, I think this is a good opportunity. This is a country that we've just established recently. If it becomes known that our knight order has repelled more than a hundred dragons, no stupid country like Yuuron would readily start a fight with us anymore in the future.

"I-I guess we will be able to defeat the dragons if we use the Frame Gears. Then....."

"I won't bring out the Frame Gears"

"Eh!?"

This time, there is the aspect of showing the potential of humans to those

conceited dragons. Let's make them realize the power of humans they are looking down upon as lower organisms. The purpose which drives those guys is an unjustified resentment, after all.

Moreover, it will be an easy victory if we use Frame Gears, but it won't become a joint training for actual combat in that case. I will be troubled if they misunderstand the power they borrow as their own strength and start thinking that "We're unbeatable if we have the Frame Gears!"

"And then, here is the most important thing....."
"?"

"The raw materials from the dragons will turn into money"
"....."

That's right. Everything from the skin to the bones of the dragons are traded at a considerably high price. Even a single dragon is a fortune in itself, and there are more than a hundred of them. It's a chance to make a great profit.

"It will greatly help if we get that money"
"....."
"I will also be able to issue a bonus reward to everyone"
"Let's do it!"
""OOoo!""

So simple.

=====Scene Change=====

[I can see them. I think they will arrive here in about three minutes]

As I extend my vision with [Long Sense] after Ruli's comment, I can certainly see a flock of dragons heading right over here. We're in the plains to the south of the castle town of Brunhild, waiting for the dragons coming to attack. There won't likely be any damage to the town if we meet them here.

"What a scream they are producing"
[They say things like [Massacre them!] or [Burn them to the crisp!]. There's also a vulgar laughter included among those. It seems they have fallen too much for me to even consider them as my dependants. Or is it an effect of that cursed magic tool that brought this madness to them...?]

Unfortunately, I don't know the language of dragons so I have Ruli translate it for me. Good thing she can hear them from here. However, are they really saying that? Then it looks like there's no need to hold back. Since talking is unnecessary, shall we then have them grovel on the ground?

"Come forth storm, a great many millions of wind blades, Tempest Edge"

I invoke an ancient magic of the wind attribute which I have obtained from the [Library] towards the dragons.

All the dragons were swallowed by a storm that abruptly appeared and their wings were torn up by the wind blades.

"Gyaoaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

"Gugyoooooooooooooooooo!?"

The dragons fall down one after another while raising various screams. Though I could have caused them even more damage if I was serious, I stopped myself only to the point of removing their ability to fly by tearing their wings.

Every dragon was knocked down to the ground, and Kougyoku, who returned to her form of a huge bird, blows a rain of giant flame bullets upon the dragons from the air.

"Brunhild Knight Order, cha——rge!!"

[Ooooooooo——h!!]

Pushing through that gap, our knights order brandish their crystal swords and shields, and attack the dragons all at once by the order of knight commander Rain-san.

On the other hand, the dragons who were still lying on the ground, turn their heads to us and breathe out their flames. However, the sudden appearance of a water curtain blocks their attacks and reduces its power in half.

[Bad luck. I won't let you do it that easily]

[We are originally more proficient towards defense after all]

Kokuyou and Sango are in charge for the countermeasures for the breath attacks. I'm looking at the dragons while standing on top of the shell of the big turtle and serpent that have turned back to their original forms as everyone

from the knight order starts slashing their swords at the dragons.

Moreover, Kohaku indomitably changed back to her big tiger form and took off towards the wyverns and released a shockwave with her roar. The wyverns who took that yell were swiftly blown backward.

[Well then, I will go as well. I can't just leave it all to that Kohaku《Bastard》]
"I ask you to focus on continue supporting everyone"
[I understand]

Ruli spreads her wings and roars as she turns towards the sky. Upon hearing that, the movements of the dragons freeze for a moment. It seems she has shouted something. Though I don't understand what is it since it's in the dragon language. I guess it's to be expected that even the translation magic [Translation] cannot decipher the language of animals. It then would be similar to [Telepathy] if it could. Such magic..... I guess that if I search for it, it will likely exist.

Ruli flies into the sky and shoots fire bullets towards the dragons who are in the inner parts of the herd. With just that alone, a few dragons were blown off.

Umuu, those guys will turn into money, so I would like you not to blow them off too far.

It seems that Ruli doesn't see those guys as her relatives anymore since she doesn't oppose selling those defeated dragons. Even I think it's quite dry, but it may not be that strange in a world where only the fittest survive.

"We will also use support magic"
"I agree"

Lindsey and Yumina, who are waiting behind me, chant wide area support magics. These are part of the ancient magics discovered in [Library].

"Come forth flame, barrier of fire protection, Fire Resist"
"Bestow the wind on us, blessing of the favorable winds, Tailwind"

Everyone in the knight order is being wrapped by red and green lights. Those are support magics that give flame resistance and increase their agility respectively.

"Tower shield corps, to the front! Assault corps, follow behind them!!"
[Oooh!!]

While expanding the defensive barrier, ten people holding their shields form a row, and receive a single dragon's breath. After that, the knights holding the long crystal spears thrust them into the dragon from the gaps in between the shields and easily pierce its body.

"Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?"

The spears easily pierce through the dragon's own scales that should be even harder than steel. The dragon seems to be more puzzled than surprised. That reaction is fatal for it.

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

Utilizing the jumping power of a rabbit beastman, Rain-san jumps over the shield corps and lands onto the dragon. Having deeply pierced the crystal sword she has unsheathed in the air into the dragon's crown, she then immediately withdraws her sword.

Just when I thought that the dragon made two to three big convulsions, it then collapsed on the spot.

"Good! Let's go to the next one!"
[Ou!]

Nicely done. Same goes for the knight order. You can say that it's thanks to the equipment or the support magic, but I guess what's most amazing is that little less than 10 people can defeat a dragon. Moreover, their opponent was a dragon that became as strong as a regular high-rank dragon thanks to [Echo Needle of Domination]. I guess that our knights getting viciously beaten up by the goddess of sword isn't just for show after all?

"Touya-kun, is it not okay if I go too?"

"Like I've said, it will no longer be called a training if Moroha-nee-san goes in as well"

That sword god, who is itching to go and wants to fight, is standing right beside me. You say that you want to go and fight, but in the first place, any blade will quickly be chipped against dragons as long as it isn't a crystal sword

or an extremely sharp sword. Well, if it's Moroha-nee-san, she will still fight and finish them off even if I give her a dull sword.

"However, you know that there's the so-called "worst case scenario", right? In order to be able to respond to that situation, I think it would be better for me to be over there, you know"

"Mu....You're just going to support everyone, you got that? Being overwhelming is not good, okay?"

"I get it, I get it already. Come on! Give me a sword or something!"

I take out a crystal greatsword from [Storage] and pass it on to Moroha-nee-san. The next moment, she joyfully starts running towards the dragons, swings that blade, cuts off the ankles of the dragons she happens to pass by one after another and then defeats them. Even though I've just told her not to be overwhelming..... Well, our side won't lose now. In a sense, I've just sent out our ultimate 《Lethal Weapon》.

"Is it still bad for us to head out ? "

"No, it's no good because the knights won't have their turn if you guys also join in"

Elsie, Yae, Rue, and Hilda begin sulking. Even if they show me those faces, it's still no good. Moroha-nee-san as support is already more than enough.

The fight will become a free-for-all if there are too many participants. Nevertheless, it's a good thing that Kougyoku is keeping everyone in check, Sango and Kokuyou are protecting them, and Kohaku and Ruli are guiding everyone so that it would make it easy for them to fight.

I'm currently following up on the injuries of those who fell with recovery magic to some extent. Since Sango and Kokuyou are suppressing the enemy's fire breath, they probably won't be killed instantly unless they will receive a big blow or they will overexert themselves too much.

"Oh? ? "

One of the wyverns is trying to fly with its wounded wings. But, after he floated for about 10 meters, he was knocked down by the Kougyoku's flame bullets. Nice.

"Uaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

Raising his battle cry there, Baba-jii-san drives his giant crystal spear into the temporal region of the wyvern's head. That one blow ends the life of that wyvern.

Being as old as he is, I want him to fall back to the rear as a support, but he doesn't intend to listen to what I say. Next to him, Yamagata-ossan is swinging his greatsword against another wyvern, and slashes the legs of yet another dragon.

"Ora Ora Ora! Come over here, you lizards!"

The tension is rising up since the fight is going on for a long time now. Baba-jiisan and Yamagata-Ossan don't want to get on the Frame Gears. They say they don't feel like they are fighting while they are inside it, but it seems like they are enjoying this state where they are fighting naturally with their own lives. Although I myself believe that safety is the most important aspect, you know. I don't understand the feelings of people who like to fight.

"Fuua!"

"Yaaaa!"

Nicola-san's halberd is roaring and Norun-san's twin swords are wildly dancing. This time I prevented them from summoning their mounts, Rain-san included.

I've done this because I told them to look at the situation of the battlefield while they are on the ground. Had they ridden the griffons or pegasus, it would be difficult for them to defend against the breath attacks with their shields. The riders themselves would be fine, but the mounts would be defenseless in that case.

While I was talking about this and that, most of the dragons have collapsed, and have stopped their movement.

Even the remaining dragons seem to be screaming something, but as always, I don't know what they are saying. I try asking Kokuyou who is winding around Sango's feet.

"What is that one saying?"

[Haa, this is a storm of abuses. Saying things like [Inferior creatures!] or [Weaklings who can't win if they don't crowd!], as if you bastards can say that]

Good grief. Even though they are the ones who crowded and came attacking here first.

Towards that dragon which is yelling and ranting, Ruli pours down on him her largest flame breath that chars him to a crisp. Aah, even though I've said that I won't be able to sell him like that.

[Ruli-chan seems to be furious. I suppose that's natural. I would also become like that if my dependents were howling like that]

On the other hand, Kohaku blows away a dragon that's attacking the knights with a shockwave and tears its eyes with her claws thus rendering one more enemy unable to fight without killing it. It's like she is saying they are unworthy to be her opponents.

[It seems it will be over soon]

"Do they really have the power of a high-ranking dragon? Aren't they too weak?"

[Perhaps they do have a power close to that if it's a one-on-one. However, they are no good when it comes to group fighting. Each one of them is just selfishly running around so there isn't any cooperation. It seems like their power didn't lift up their slow-mindedness. If there was at least a single [Elder Dragon], the outcome might have been different]

In the first place, dragons don't hunt in herds. I guess it would be noticed otherwise.

The outcome has already been decided exactly as how Kokuyou has said it would be. Even the dragons that are still breathing are being slaughtered one by one by the knight order.

Eventually, all their movements stop. The damage on our side is limited to several lightly injured people. It's an overwhelming victory.

"Raise the shout of victor——y!!"

""""Ooooooooo——h!!""""

A victory shout echoes throughout the plains where many dragon corpses are

lying exposed. We won even though it was somehow a let-down.

Before I've noticed it, there were already a lot of spectators at the back. I guess we will really stand out if we make that much noise, won't we? It seems a lot of spectators have come down from the town. As far as I can see from here, I feel there are a lot of adventurers.

"Y-your Majesty! What happened.....?!"

The guild master Rerisha-san appears from among the spectators while bringing along several members of the guild staff. For a moment, she flinches after seeing the huge figures of Sango and Kokuyou, but after realizing they are my summoned beasts, she comes running here without minding about them.

"I went to the castle to inform you that I had received information stating that a swarm of dragons were headed towards here. But when I had reached the castle, His Majesty wasn't there, and neither the knights..... ! "

"Ah, I'm sorry for that. We've missed each other. But we've already solved it"

"It... seems so..."

Rerisha-san looks shocked while surveying the corpses of the dragons that are stretched out. Oh right, maybe I should have asked the adventurers to help out as well? Oh well, let's have them convey the heroic tale of the bravery of our knight order.

"I... I guess you're right. Will the guild be able to buy them for us?"

"Thi-is... you mean all of them!? No, there's no problem with regards to buying all of them, but I really can't pay the full price right now... If I am to consider their price, then I can pay for about ten of those corpses right away..."

"Well then, I will just safekeep the rest. Until the remaining money can be prepared, that is"

They won't rot once I put them in [Storage] so it should be alright. All that's left is roasting the meat from several of those dragons and distributing the meat in town, I think? It's said that the dragon meat is delicious. Let's share it with others.

I address the excited knights with an aerial projection from the smartphone.

[Good work to all knights. I will roast dragon meat after this so please eat a

bellyful of it and heal your fatigue. Of course, I will also properly pay out the reward bonuses]

"Uoooooooo!! We did it!!"

"Meat! Meat!"

"I am hungry~!"

"I can pay back my debt with this....."

"Brunhild Banza~i!"

Various shouts are echoing through the battlefield. Above all else, I'm glad they're happy.

[And tomorrow, we will head to the dragon's nest on "Drachen Island" with the Frame Gears for extermination, so I'm looking forward to working with you~]

""""""Eeh!?"""""""

Everyone makes faces full of surprise and simultaneously turns their eyes wide open towards me.

Chapter 192: The Island of Dragons, and the Dragon King

Drachen Island. It's slightly smaller than Brunhild. There is a Drachen volcano at the center that emits smoke all the time. The island is mostly a wasteland, it's not a place where people can live.

The dragons are mainly living on the beaches all around the island. It seems like they eat large fishes or magic fishes. It's said that they also occasionally go outside the island and hunt magic beasts in the forests where no humans from the surrounding countries live. In other words, they have been distancing themselves from people.

However, I'm told that they've been assaulting the people's cattle, aiming at the fishing boats heading to the harbors, and running wild as much as they pleased recently.

Not a single [Elder Dragon] remained on that island, so controlling them most likely became impossible.

Ruli and I have arrived at the sandy beach of that island. Upon our arrival, Ruli roars with a voice which can likely be heard throughout the entire island. Hey, my ears will pop out!

As soon as she does that, I immediately hear a lot of squealing roars. The dragons then start showing up from all over the island. In addition to the subspecies of low-ranked dragons known as wyverns, sea dragons, and land dragons, a group of young high-ranked dragons are heading towards here.

[We have been surrounded, haven't we?]

"By the way, what did you say just now?"

[I said 'Oh the foolish lowly dragons who forgot your pride, the time of purge has come. Are you ready to die?']

Well, she's not wrong. I did come here to beat these lowly dragons that strayed from the right path. Even so.

"Shut it with all this squealing, it's noisy!"

For me who doesn't understand the language of dragons, it's nothing more than a simple noise. Though It's certain they are voicing some sort of complaint.

"Oh my! Oh my! What kind of dragon tamer came up here?"

A single man from the dragon clan has come pushing his way through the group of earth dragons lined up on the sandy beach.

The dragon clan has many tall guys, but even this man doesn't fall behind on that aspect since he's quite tall. His height is about two meters. He has a sturdy body and he's dressed up in a gorgeous armor and mantle. He has red hair and a pair of golden eyes. I can also see the characteristically thick tail and horns of the dragon clan.

"Can I presume that you're the one called the [Dragon King]?"

"Hou? I'm glad beyond measure that my name is spreading this quickly. And, who are you?"

"I'm the king of a small country called Brunhild"

The man's eyebrow twitched. It seems like he knows about me.

".....Hou. For us to be able to meet in a place like this. It seems you've taken a great care of my subordinates the other day"

"Rather than saying that I "took care" of them, they didn't even become decent opponents. Ah, the thing that you are using, the one called the [Echo Needle of Domination], that device looks defective. I think it would be better to throw a trash like that away"

"Whaaa.....!"

The man panics after having his secret of him manipulating the dragons revealed. He probably didn't even consider that I would know about the magic 《Artifact》 that have existed more than 5000 years ago.

"So, I will ask you just in case, there's no mistake that you're the mastermind who's manipulating the dragons, right?"

"It's unthinkable when you say "manipulate". I've only liberated them! From those old dragons! From being bounded with their laws! A dragon is stronger than anyone, more noble than anyone, they are the most clever creatures. Why do those dragons have to keep their distance from something like humans!?"

"Clever, you say. I personally think that every dragon here is foolish"

[I agree]

Ruli, who's nearby, shares the same opinion. They would have already run away a long time ago if they were a clever bunch.

In the end, this guy is like that, right? He's the a kind of guy who's a so-called "dragon supremacist". They say the dragon clan is a clan full of pride and they spend most of their lives on their own training. They are seekers pursuing their own path. However, one wrong step and even that pride will turn into arrogance leading up to making mistakes along the way. In that regard, they are completely similar to dragons.

"Although those dragons of yours have lost to [something like humans] ..."
"Shut up! There is no way a dragon with its fighting power will be defeated on a one-on-one fight! The likes of incompetent humans that only have their reproductive power shouldn't speak proudly!"
"If you go with that argument, then that fertility is the strength of humans since individual strength is a characteristic of dragons. Besides, I can defeat such dragons by myself"

Accurately speaking, It looks like I'm changing into a demigod, so it's dubious whether I can be considered "strictly human". Oh well, someone like Yae or Elsie should probably be able to defeat them, so it's not like I'm totally lying.

"And have you embarked to this island because of that? you have a lot of confidence, but if you seriously believe that you can do something against a dragon as your opponent based on self-confidence alone, then you must be crazy. If one has this much power over dragons, wouldn't it be easy to obtain this world?"

The dragon king says those words while obviously sweating suspiciously. Really? There seems to be more than 500 dragons just among the ones that are here, but can you really conquer the world only with that amount? It's suspicious.

"How about it? Why won't I hand you half of the world if you join me? That's why...

"Pooh!! "

... what's so funny!!"

No, of course I would laugh! Anyone would laugh towards what the [Dragon King] has said! I never thought I would hear those words in real life. It's not like I'm a hero though, but my answer is obviously a NO.

"Listen here, do you know what "a disorderly mob" means? It means "a meaningless gathering". Rather than commanding that many dragons, you're in a position where you just leave them to take care of themselves after you've simply drawn out their power. Why is there a need to be afraid of that? Though you're bragging as if [I can manipulate dragons, but I just let them do whatever they want] when in fact, you can only control just one or two of them at most. If you go higher than that, you will have a headache or a physical disorder, am I right? "

"Uguuu!"

Seems like I hit the bullseye. Apparently, it was true what Shizuka and Rosetta had said about the [Echo Needle of Domination] being a defective product. It seems that acting like an important guy is tough.

"He...hehehe. Is there any reason to manipulate them? You are the enemy of these dragons, [Dragon Slayer]. All the dragons here will try to kill you. If I give a single order—?"

The next moment, the upper body of the man standing in front of me disappears. No, rather than saying that it disappeared, it was bitten off by the black dragon standing behind him.

Uoa. The bloody lower half of the body collapses. Gross..... Something is coming out, something is coming out!

Both low-ranked dragons and young high-ranked dragons can understand human language, but cannot speak it.

For the dragons who have grown arrogant, I guess it was truly unpleasant for them to be the subordinates of a demi-human even if it's to gain power. But since there was a risk of being manipulated, I think they were enduring it till now. And when they had found out that it was just a groundless fear, there was no reason for them to hold back anymore.

Is that why the black dragon, who understood that from the Dragon King's conversation with me just now, immediately bared his fangs at that king?

"He reaped what he sowed but..... I guess it doesn't mean that the problem has been solved with this"

[They are saying the usual verbal abuses like [Let's start the Blood Festival!]] and [Lowly humans!]]

"Ah, it is already troublesome. Let's clean it all at once"

With a snap of my fingers, a [Gate] is opened. *Thud-thud-thud*. Frame Gears are transported on the sandy beach of the island one after another.

The color of impatience is showing on the dragons towards the giant humans that suddenly appeared. I've called out a total number of 50 units. Their numbers are just 1/10th of the dragons, but even that might be plenty enough.

[Notice to everyone. No need to hold back. We will have a dragon meat barbecue tonight when we win]

[Oooo!]

I tell everyone that on an open line through the receiver. It would make things a little bit easier unlike before. The enemies are not as hard as Frazes, and magic is also effective against them. The question is whether this is an overkill or not. The dragons that become minced meat cannot be sold as one would expect. In the end, it may cause extra worries if we try to be careful.

Well, it's no use thinking about those things. For the sake of the nearby villages and towns, to protect the dignity of the other proud dragons, and for the sake of warming the pocket of our country, we won't hold back. There are already quite a few victims. Because of that, we will stop those guys here.

[Brunhild Knight Order, charge]

[Oooo——h ! !]

Along with the roar, the heavy knights 《Chevalier》 start charging at the dragons. Flame bullets and fire breaths are released by the dragons, but those are being intercepted with big shields. Then, the neighboring dragons have their heads cut off with a single powerful swing.

Seeing the power of their opponents, the other dragons fly out at the same time. However, the heavy knights release wind magic, and several dragons are caught by the tornados, lose control, and fall down.

The ether liquid used in the Frame Gears not only amplifies the pilot's magic power, but also fulfills the role of transporting that magic power to every corner of the frame. Though magic that interferes with others like recovery magic is impossible, other magics are mostly usable with the exception of light and darkness magic.

The heavy knights hunt the fallen dragons one after another. Ah~ I don't mind necks flying around due to sword swings or hearts getting pierced with spears, but I can't let them crush the heads with maces or warhammers. They will be bought cheaply if they are smashed to pieces.

His companions are being killed one by one, and the black dragon who had bitten off the dragon king (In the end, I didn't know his real name) is restlessly looking around unable to keep his composure. Seeing that, Ruli takes one step forward towards him.

"Ruli?"

[Lord. Leave the punishment of this one to me. He defiled his pride as a dragon with great resolution. As such, I will make him realize the strength of a true dragon]

"Umm..... Well, it's fine, isn't it? I do understand your feelings"

[I appreciate it]

After saying that, Ruli inhales greatly and lets loose a roar once again, which seems capable of cracking glass, towards the black dragon. Wait! Like I've already said, my ears will pop!

In response to that, the black dragon also roars, but that roar has no force when compared to Ruli's, it was quite a pitiable voice.

Did that dragon understand the situation by itself? It faltered for a moment, then fired a flame bullet from its mouth towards Ruli. However, Ruli didn't avoid that attack, and received it straight up front.

I was a little surprised there, but the flaming bullet didn't hurt her bluish scales. Ruli is calmly being tranquil.

This time, the black dragon that's clearly panicking steps back. On the other hand, Ruli immediately jumps and bites the throat of the black dragon. And the unpleasant sound of a neck being snapped echoes through the sandy beach

along with an agonizing scream of death. Uaaaa. This one is even more gruesome.....

The corpse of the black dragon crumbles down on the sandy beach. Ruli, who has ascertained that, raises an echoing roar once again throughout the entire island.

Thereupon, several dragons that are standing closeby became frightened, crawl on the ground, and stop their movements. A message then comes from the receiver before long.

[.....Your Majesty. Several dragons laid down on the ground and ceased to resist. This is.....]

"Ruli. Is this supposed to be a surrender?"

[Yes. I've said "For the last time, I once more recommend you to surrender. Those who want to obey, stop resisting. Otherwise, I will turn you into dust in the name of the [Blue Emperor]"]

Do you think I will let you turn them to dust? They are an important source of funds. Oh well. Jokes aside, are there perhaps a few who knew the name of [Blue Emperor]? And yet, there are still a lot of foolish dragons who continue to resist.

[Don't fight the dragons who are no longer resisting, but you can kill those who are still fighting. Don't let your guard down since they may be pretending that they've already surrendered]

[Roger]

Before long, from those 500 dragons that appeared, more than 350 dragons had been killed. while the rest surrendered. And then, the [Echo Needle of Domination] were removed from their heads. This artifact is undoubtedly few in numbers. Perhaps, they had been collected in a certain place for disposal, but were then prevented from being destroyed for some reason. And after many years had passed, they were excavated... or was it something else?

Even though I wanted to know more about this artifact, it's already useless since the only one who knew the truth has only his lower body remaining now..... As far as it goes, the body (although only the lower body) was buried in the coast. And I also buried the black dragon next to him. It's not due to

compassion though. When I think that the upper-body is in this guy's stomach, I'm thinking that I wouldn't like to bring it home.

If someone makes a mistake using a certain tool, that person will destroy himself. That lesson was understood in this event. One has to be careful. Otherwise, it might be too late already.

Chapter 193: Fortune Making and the Rookie Adventurers

"Then, this is the rest of the fee for the dragon materials"

I open the heavy bag that Rerisha-san has offered, and check the contents. There are 100 king gold coin in roughly 12 bags with a total of 1200 king gold coins. There is no way to compare this with the currency from my original world, but from my experience so far I can conclude that a king gold coin is roughly about 10,000,000 yen, all in all totaling 12 billion yen. UhhaUhha.

King gold coins, as a side note, are seldom being used aside from transactions between countries or large merchants since it's a very grave matter to loose them.

Furthermore, this portion only includes the dragons that have attacked Brunhild. The other 350 dragons that have been defeated in Drachen Island are still being kept inside [Storage].

I've stopped myself from selling the materials even though it might've been fine to sell everything simply because different problems will occur if I release too much. The guild might also make a lot of profits with those materials. Therefore, let's sell them in small quantities since it looks like the guild won't be circulating those materials around the world all at once.

"That event became quite a rumor around the world. It says that Brunhild's Knight Order won an overwhelming victory against a swarm of dragons"

"Isn't it hard to believe just by listening to the story?"

"That's right. Even I who was on site can't believe it. However, I have no doubt that the strength of the knight order is being circulated. Won't the countries that want to strangely interfere with this country decrease due to what has happened? "

Well, I'm thankful if that's the case. I'm already fed up to again deal with a country like Yuuron. There are still some people from Yuuron who are claiming

that the great invasion was a scheme by Brunhild even now. They're screaming that [Brunhild should admit and pay for their crimes] thus demanding the reparations. Of course I don't plan on paying though.

It's being officially stated that I'm the one who assassinated the new Heavenly Emperor. Yuuron is in a state of anarchy since people who called themselves the new Heavenly Emperors by proclaiming that [I'm actually the illegitimate child of the Heavenly Emperor] had come one after the other. The country is dying out quite fast and it seems that it's no longer functioning properly as a country.

Other countries will usually help in that case, but no one is willing to associate with them due to their past actions and to their diplomacy that's filled with lies thus far. Oh well, they are paying for their mistakes, it's not like I care.

I put the money inside [Storage], and leave the guild. I can pay out the bonus to everyone with this. How much should I give each person? Let's be generous with a bang this time, okay?

I then arrived in front of the dungeon transition gates as I was thinking about that. I call out to Tsubaki-san's subordinate Toppa-san《Spy》 who is putting out his stall as usual. (TN: Toppa is an archaic word for ninja)

"Hey"

"Oh. Customer, I have a bargain today"

Oh? Did something happen? I listen to the stories while crouching down and pick up the goods that have been placed there.

"Several people have turned up dead"

".....Really? Well, It is unavoidable as long as one is an adventurer, isn't it? Were they killed by magic beasts?"

"That's how it looks like from the outside. They didn't return after they went there. I'm thinking that they might have taken an unreasonable action without considering their own power since they were all low ranked adventurers"

Did they get cocky and went down to lower floors against their better judgment? It's a wise idea to return when you are able to judge that a little stronger opponent has come out since one's life is a priority.

"However, there is just one thing that's strange. It looked like those adventurers were certainly dead, but no belongings were found other than their guild cards"

"Belongings? Even if slimes melt the flesh, not even things like swords or armors were found?"

"Eh. Well, it may sound strange but there are guys like hyenas among adventurers....."

Does that mean there are those who scavenge the weapons, armors, and the personal belongings of the deceased? That in itself is not praised, but it isn't a particularly bad thing.

It's considered as an adventurer's etiquette to hand a dead adventurer's equipment over to the guild for them to pass those to the friends and families of the dead in case those items are found. However, it's not necessary to obey that rule since it's just etiquette after all.

There's this story wherein a certain adventurer has used a large sum of money to get a pretty expensive armor that doesn't suit his strength. That adventurer was so happy that he bragged about the armor at every opportunity he could find. Several days later, his corpse was discovered in a dungeon without the expensive armor on his body.

Then, was he stripped away of the expensive armor by another adventurer who found him after he had been killed by a monster of that dungeon? Or was he killed by another adventurer who had his eyes on that armor? The truth remains in the dark.

Well for this case, it doesn't look like they had been targeted because they didn't seem to have any expensive equipment or tools in particular.

"How many have died so far?"

"Ten guild cards have been found and nothing else"

Did 10 people die? My mood got a little heavy. I guess it would be wise to create a safe zone that can't be attacked by monsters of the dungeon or a transfer formation to the surface even if it's only on the early floors where beginners loiter around.

I bid farewell to Toppa-san 《Spy》, and head towards the transition gates.

A few youngsters are paying the fee of one copper coin with ten copper coins to the clerk when I arrive at the transition gate of [Amaterasu]. Could it be that they're about 12 to 13 years of age? They are a four-person party consisting of two boys and two girls.

One boy has a short spear and scale armor as his equipment while the other one has a short bow and leather armor.

The equipment of the girls is an iron sword and leather armor for one girl and a beginner's wand and a robe for the other. They indeed give off the feeling of novice adventurers.

The four people excitedly pass through the transition gate of Amaterasu and vanish to the dungeon of the island.

I become a little worried about those children because of the story I've previously heard.

...Shall I go chase after them? No-No, stalking is no good. If there was a special school for adventurers, it could teach them various things like knowledge or skills.

...No, it might unexpectedly be a good idea. We can just hire retired adventurers as teachers.

However, can I manage this school? I'm not so sure about the idea of taking an enrollment fee though. Will I have them pay after graduation? At the very least, we will know what request they will be receiving and how much they will have earned by then using the guild card if we are able to secure the cooperation of the guild.

Should I consult this with Rerisha-san? We might receive some other good ideas.

"Huh? Touya?"

Rin, who brought Pola along, is there when I turned around after having been called. She has her black parasol open along with the usual black gothic loli clothes.

"Rin? Why are you in a place like this?"

"Just a little shopping and peeking at the same time. I thought that there might've been some bargains here. What about you?"

"Ah..... I was thinking of remodeling the dungeon a little. I was wondering if having a safety zone where people could take a break would be convenient"

"Hee~ That sounds interesting. Is it alright if I tag along?"

Rin takes my arm without waiting for a reply. Mu-u. Rin has been aggressively approaching me since then. Has she really been serious about wanting to marry me?

It's somewhat embarrassing because her appearance is almost the same as with Yumina and the rest, therefore, we might look like an elder brother and a younger sister from a bystander's point of view.

We briskly came to the reception desk of the [Amaterasu] transition gate. Rin takes out one copper from her pocket, and passes it to the receptionist and then writes her name on a notebook that has been prepared there.

A person can still transfer by paying the entrance fee and writing their name even if that person doesn't register on the Adventurer's Guild. The name is being written in the entry to know when the said person came in and came out. Of course, having the guild card can instantly finish the registration.

However, I've also written my name and have paid one copper coin. My card is gold so it stands out, doesn't it?... I have used [Takeda Shingen] as my name since there's no specific rule stating that I must write my real name. It's also fine to use [Takeda Shingen] again when I come back.

The light of the dazzling sun shines brightly once we pass through the transition gate. It's quite warm here at this time when compared to Brunhild in midwinter.

I restlessly look around, but I can't see the rookie adventurers from before. I wonder if they have already entered the dungeon.

We enter the dungeon along with Pola. Inside it, Rin folds her parasol and activates [Light].

"How about going down to the 3rd underground floor for now?"

If I'm not mistaken, [Amaterasu] dungeon should've been captured until the

sixth underground floor. I open the map and head to the stairs leading to the second underground floor.

"..... Why do you know all the maps for this dungeon?"

"I don't know what to say even if you ask me that. I also have nothing else to say"

Rim mutters in amazement while looking at the projected map in the air. I also didn't think I would end up knowing about it.

We arrive directly at the stairs without struggling and descend to the second underground floor. I defeat the magic beasts and monsters that we occasionally meet, and we descend to the third underground floor in a similar fashion. Nevertheless, it took some time to a certain degree.

"I would like to make a safe zone here where anyone can take a break. I wonder, is there a location that convenient?..."

We search for a suitable place while looking at the map projected in the air. I also have it display the adventurers on the map just in case. They can also be a hindrance during the search.

"Isn't this area good? Its distance is also about the same from the other set of stairs, a reasonable place"

The place where Rin points at is quite a wide location wherein even a few parties can take a rest. There are detour routes too and it's a place where anyone won't be troubled even if they don't go through here. I guess this area here is good.

We move forward in the dungeon while defeating magic beasts. The enemies that appear are annoying. I'm at the point where I want an item similar to a holy water in games that repel monsters.

We eventually arrive at our destination and begin searching the vicinity. It doesn't look like there's a trap or a hidden door in particular.

I then use [Program] and [Enchant] without delay to make sure that this room will prevent magic beasts and monsters from entering. Furthermore, I will write letters on the wall. They are just the typical 'Please feel at ease and take a rest in this room because no magic beasts or monsters can enter in here'.

I'll sign it too just in case because I'll be troubled if they think it's a trap.

"Brunhild Dukedom Sovereign King, Mochizuki Touya..... it says"

I hope this makes them feel safe though. Come to think of it, we didn't see those rookies. Oh well. They are beginners anyway. Are they walking around the first floor?

I remember their faces, so shall I search for them for a little bit? Ummm, display the adventurers in blue while the adventurers I saw in front of the transition gate in green...

Oya. It is surprising. Did they make it down to the second underground floor? Furthermore, they are not just four people. There are three other adventurers. Did those three bring them to the second floor?

Huh? This looks strange. Those movements..... Are they fighting monsters?

"Are they that inexperienced to struggle with seven people?"

"At least those four felt like complete amateurs. They felt like boys and girls that have just come from the countryside."

Maybe they aren't weak, rather, there are just a lot of opponents, I think? Even Kobolds or Goblins are pretty dangerous if they attack in numbers more than ten.

Let me see, show the indication for magic beasts and monsters... and. Huh?

There is nothing? No, they are properly being displayed on the other parts of the map. Then this means.....o

"What does that mean?"

"..... Those four are being attacked by the other three adventurers"

What a situation.

Chapter 194: Fake Adventurers and Human Trafficking

We reached the second floor as the boy with a short spear was being blown away. The male bow user and the female magician were already hurt and were collapsed on the floor while the swordswoman and the spearman were somehow managing to protect them.

"Hey, don't hurt them too much. They are our precious merchandise after all."

"I'm telling ya, I know. Besides, I have to deal with this troublesome situation because you forgot the damn paralysis poison"

"Whatever! Just do it fast. If magic beasts appear it will be even more troublesomeee-!?"

I kick the face of the fat middle-aged man that was on the lookout and send him flying inside the room. The guy flies vigorously like a rubber ball and falls down in front of his companions.

"Wha- who the hell are you?"

"That's my line. Who are you guys?"(Touya)

One is a Fatty, one is kind of Lanky, and the other one is a Baldy. This group can't be more suspicious.

While wiping his nosebleed, Fatty gets up. He's quite tough, huh? Looks like his fat absorbed the damage.

"Ara, It looks like we made it in time."(Rin)

Rin arrived with Pola and the faces of the three men distorted pervertedly after seeing her. Lanky came towards us with a sword at hand. The other two also turn towards us with their weapons. They probably think that I only have a dagger (Brynhildr) with me. They show enough leeway to look at Rin with eyes of appraisal unlike before.

"Hihi, you're quite a babe, huh? Looks like we're lucky. Hey you, if you value your life leave this girl behind and scram" (Lanky)

"...Huh?" (Touya)

"Didn't you hear me? I'm telling you to give this girl to us and leave! Wanna get killed, huh?" (Lanky)

I approach Lanky who's looking up without saying a word. Then I swing down my leg on top of his leg and crush his bones to a pulp.

"GYAAAAaaaa-!?"

Lanky holds his leg while writhing in pain, rolls on the ground with teary eyes, and gets a runny nose. Annoying. I kick his solar plexus to shut him up.

"UGOEeeeeEE!!"

Why do I need to give Rin to the likes of you? Don't talk nonsense, you delinquent adventurer. I'll kill you.

"M-Motherfucker! The hell you think you're doing!?" (Fatty)

"We're blue ranked adventurers! Do you think you can win...?!" (Baldy)

"How cocky. I bet you guys ranked up by stealing the spoils from other people, didn't you? There is no way a blue ranked adventurer would be this weak. Don't look down on adventurers!"(Touya)

I break Fatty's kneecap with a kick from the front. Unable to support his own weight, Fatty falls forward and starts agonizing.

"GUGAAAaaa!? Knee, my kneeeeee!!"

"Hi, hii-!"

Baldy shows his back as he tries to run away leaving behind the other two. I take out Brynhildr, aim at his back, and pull the trigger without hesitation.

"GEHA-!?"

Baldy collapses with a thud after taking a paralysis bullet. He's quite an adventurer for trying to escape while leaving his comrades behind. Blue rank, you say? What a joke.

"You're quite extreme, aren't you? It was sort of unexpected"(Rin)

Rin mutters while looking at Lanky and Fatty who were still sobbing and

cowering.

"A- Sorry. I somehow got pissed when I heard them talking about doing things to you"(Touya)

It's been awhile since I got angry. I think the last time it happened was the case with the idiot prince from Rynie. I thought I've become a little patient but it seems I still have some way to go.

"Hmm, But I'm happy you got angry for me."(Rin)

Rin gives a suggestive smile. Ku- It's kinda embarrassing. I feel like my face is getting red so I turn my back to Rin and face the newbie adventurers.

"Are you guys alright?"

"A, yes! We're a little wounded but we're fine. But Clauss and Ion are....."

The male spear user looks at his two collapsed friends. I think those two have just fainted but I cast [Cure Heal] and [Refresh] on them to be sure. As such, they've regained their consciousness.

I, though being thanked again and again by those four, vaguely listen to them and ask what happened.

It seems that the trio called out to them inside the dungeon and told them that those three would show them some safe hunting grounds. Therefore, they followed the trio. How careless.

They, as a result, were brought here and ended up being assaulted. It seems that the two who weren't vanguards were quickly defeated and lost consciousness due to the sudden attack.

"These three are kidnappers based on the contents of the conversation, right? If people go missing inside the dungeon leaving behind showy blood stains or just their guild cards, it'll probably be judged that they were eaten by magic beasts and there will be no further investigation."(Touya)

"Yes, they've said they would sell us to slave merchants" (Sword girl)

The swordswoman with a ponytail quickly raises her hand and makes her statement. How lively.

But a slave merchant, maybe....

I squat in front of the moaning Lanky and put the muzzle of Brynhildr at his forehead.

"Answer me with a simple “yes” or “no”. Did you guys kidnap the adventurers that have been thought to be dead until now?"(Touya)

Lanky shook his head vigorously while pouring cold sweat. As expected, huh?

Rin tilts her head upon hearing that.

"But after kidnapping those adventurers, they three can't bring them through the transition gates now, can they? Then how did they...."(Rin)

"It's simple. They must be coming here directly with a boat, from the slaver's ship for example. Isn't that right?"(Touya)

Lanky nods vigorously again. Just like I've said.

These islands are located to the south of the Sandora Kingdom, and the Sandora Kingdom still has a slavery system to this very day.

It's a country that uses the [Collar of Subordination] to take freedom from people and treat them like merchandise. It means that the people that were kidnapped are being taken there to be sold.

"So, have the adventurers you kidnapped earlier already been delivered to Sandora?"(Touya)

Lanky shakes his head this time. Does this mean they haven't sent them yet? Then, doesn't this mean there's still a chance to help them?

The slave ship is probably anchored somewhere while hiding. Those fellows most likely planned to make those rookies look dead after kidnapping them from here and carry them to the ship, thus making them seem to be missing in the dungeon.

I find out that a medium-sized boat is anchored on a small island further northeast from this island containing the [Amaterasu] dungeon when I try searching for it on my map. Is it this one?

I understood the details of the case. There's no more use for these guys so I've paralyzed the other two groaning people with [Paralysis].

"Hey..... What are you going to do? If you want to contact the knight order or

the guild, I will go with you but..."

The swordswoman nervously asks while the other three are surmising the situation while looking here. They should have noticed the severity of the situation, but for some reason, I feel that there's some excitement mixed with anxiety.

"It's okay. We'll be the ones who will contact them. Oh, that's right, we still haven't introduced ourselves yet, have we? This girl is Rin, the small bear is Pola, and I am Mochizuki Touya. The King of this country"

"""The Ki-i-ing!?"""

The four people stand up all at once with their eyes opened. They then crouch down in a dogeza in panic. Just how hectic are they?

"Oh, stand up, stand up. I don't care about that kind of thing. You probably know that I'm a former adventurer, right? No, I am an adventurer even now"

I show my golden guild card to the four of them while saying that. Those kids have already been deceived once after all. I don't know whether this can be proof though.

"It is golden....."

"Amazing....."

"H-he has defeated the likes of d-dragons, golems, and great demons....."

"We can brag about this to our fathers, you know....."

It seems they've believed me. These kids are basically the softhearted type. They will be hurt if they believe anything that's told to them. Huh, didn't they get hurt already?

The four introduce themselves while being overly serious. Every one of them was apparently born in a village called Pyuton in Regulus and came to this country together.

The boy with a short spear and scale armor is Ropp (TL:ロップ).

The girl with an iron sword and leather armor is Fran (TL:フラン).

The boy with a short bow and a similar leather armor is Claus (TL:クラウス).

The girl with a robe and wand is Ion (TL:イオン).

As for my impressions towards them, Ropp is obedient, Fran is energetic,

Claus is their leader, and Ion feels like a clutz. Quite a worrisome party they have.

"What are we going to do then? Of course, we should help the adventurers who were caught"

"That's right. I also learned the location of the slaver's ship. Shall we board it and annihilate them?"

"E-excuse me! Is there anything we could help you with then!?"

"H-hey, Fran!"

Fran, the swordswoman, calls out to the rushing Claus with a sidelong glance.

Hmm, I suppose it's a good thing that they're motivated. To be frank, I wonder, can the rookie adventurers be useful?

I would like them to stack up some experience and train, but well, what should I do?

"The opponents are merchants dealing with slaves. They might even have combat slaves at their disposal. What I'm trying to say is, do you think you guys will be able to manage with your skills? As the worst case scenario, you'll be captured and be truly made into slaves, you know ? " (Touya)

"Uuu....." (Fran)

Fran looks down in regret. These children are older than Yumina and Rue but younger than the twin sisters Elsie and Lindsey when talking about their ages. On the other hand, they shouldn't be that far from me age-wise.

In our case, we had our circumstances like fighting Frazes, fighting dragons, getting involved in coup d'état and so on. It's because we had all those strong experiences... Though I am to blame for involving them in a majority of those.

"Even if those kids can't fight, can't they do reconnaissance?" (Rin)

"Reconnaissance?" (Touya)

I raise my eyebrows at Rin's proposal. Reconnaissance you say... It should also be very risky though. They may face a cruel experience if they get found out...

"Even though I've said reconnaissance, I'm talking about them infiltrating the ship by getting caught on purpose. If they can pretend to be caught by these guys and get into the slaver's ship, they will also be able to learn the situation of

the other captured people, right?" (Rin)

"Indeed... But will those guys listen?"(Touya)

I turn my attention towards the three who are paralyzed and can't move. They may obey if I threaten them, but if their circumstances are blatantly being shown on their faces, won't they likewise be exposed?

"Can't you change your appearance with [Mirage]?" (Rin)

"Ah, that's what you mean" (Touya)

Indeed. In that case, I can take along everyone if I disguise myself as those guys and these rookies will be able to get into the slaver's ship. If they can go to the place where the captured adventurers are, they may be able to secure those adventurers safety.

It'll be troublesome if the captured adventurers are taken as hostages. I don't think it's a bad strategy but.....

Frankly, I can erase my presence with [Invisible] and infiltrate the ship. It'll be quicker to find the place of confinement and rescue the prisoners this way.

When I try looking at the four people, they are looking at me with sparkling eyes while being somewhat excited. Umumu. What's the deal with them? Are they at the age where they want to go on an adventure? Beyond being made into slaves, I don't think they will treat them roughly since they are merchandise.

"Then, shall we try it..... ? "

""""Yes!""""

The cheerful voices of the four people come back. Is this really alright?

Chapter 195: The Curse and the Slaver's Ship

After that, we leave the dungeon after that. I then take all three kidnappers and transport them to the castle's prison by myself.

I will obviously stand out no matter what if I bring those adventurers through the transition gates. If the compatriots of the slave merchants see them, they would escape with their respective ship, which would be troublesome.

I also contact Rerisha-san and report to her the details of this matter. Of course, those three will have their registrations erased aside from their guild cards being confiscated. From now on, they won't be able to register again even if they use aliases. They're out of the adventurer's business.

The punishment from the adventurer's guild goes till there. From here on out, they will be punished by the country.

They have been trapping new adventurers who don't know anything and selling them off to slave merchants after depriving these adventurers of everything. This is considerably a serious crime. By the way, the punishment for this crime would without a doubt be the death penalty if we apply the laws of Regulus.

There's no death penalty in Brunhild however regrettable(?) it may be. Rather than saying there is none, it's mainly because I haven't created one. Now, while I'm worrying about what I should do, I recall an ancient magic that I read in [Library].

The magic of dark attribute is basically summoning magic, but in ancient times there were other magics of the dark attribute.

That magic is death magic that steals lives of others which is the opposite of recover magic from the light attribute.

Of course, it isn't easy to make the other party die. Such magic demands the will force, vast quantities of magic power, and the skill from its user. To be honest, I feel that someone like me can do it, but I'm not very motivated to try

it.

I'm not saying that I'll use this death magic on those kidnappers. I'm talking about using another magic derived from that death magic.

The magics are part of the [Life Absorption], [Disease Outbreak], [Fear Conferment], and [Mental Confusion] systems.

Those magics are [Curses] to say it simply. No, calling them [Curses] is an exaggeration, but rather, they're more of a [Promise] to say it even more simple.

This magic is a kind of promissory magic similar to [~ you mustn't do that] or [you have to do this~] kind of promise. A punishment will be given should the promise be broken in any kind of scenario. This is [Curse] magic. It has a pen name that is similar to [Make a pinkie promise and if you break the promise, you have to drink a thousand needles] kind of magic.

"Oh Darkness bind them, bestow punishment for their sins, Guilty Curse"

I invoke the curse on the three people inside the prison. The conditions are simple. [Do not commit crimes that can hurt people]. Each time they break this curse, even with small crimes, their fingers will be paralyzed one by one. Their arms will eventually be next one at a time, followed by their legs. They will then lose their five senses if they continue even further. The last one will be having their hearts paralyzed, and they will part from this world. If they commit big crimes then it's a goodbye in one go.

Incidentally, this magic is similar to the [Enchant] type of bestowal magic wherein the effect will not disappear even if I die. In other words, the curse cannot be lifted.

I thoroughly tell the details of the magic bestowed on the trio. [Hurting people] doesn't only mean physical abuse. It will still activate if they verbally abuse other people and those people get hurt deeply. The same will happen if they steal things and the owner will mourn his loss. Rejecting a woman's confession will still cause the curse to be invoked should that woman be hurt deeply inside. There's no leniency on what can trigger it.

I'll have them shoulder that much responsibility even though it has turned

into a capital punishment since their lives were saved. They have to try to become the best people that exist.

I believe it's impossible to continue living without hurting others. Though it may be possible if they live self-sufficient lives in a secluded place. Only their lives will be saved by that however, but I would like them to think "I'm glad this country is different from the other countries like Regulus".

The trio who heard the contents of the punishment turned blue and couldn't stand up. The pattern that's the proof of the curse appears on their foreheads.

Fatty eventually rebukes Lanky saying that [We're suffering like this because of you!]. A~ah, haven't those guys heard the explanation just now?

"Uah!? Uah!? I-I can't feel my finger! It's not moviiiig!?"

Fatty sheds tears while pinching his finger. It's obvious. You deeply hurt Lanky with what you've just said, and that's the punishment~. (TL: Wow, this is worse than I imagined)

Well then, it's about time I bid them farewell and banish them outside the country since they've seen the effect of the curse. That's right... Shall I send them to Yuuron? I think those three may be able to receive sympathy from the people there because many people in that country say a lot of bad things about me.

I then transfer the trio to a suitable location in Yuuron with [Gate]. Alright! With this, one case is closed. Oops, I guess it's not yet over, right? Now I have to do deal with the slave merchants.

=====Scene Change=====

I head to the forest near the dungeon again while waiting for night time. There's no excuse to the fact that I've made those four rookie adventurers wait in the forest till now. If the four of them, who should have been captured, were wandering around, I don't know when or where would our coverup collapse.

I've left Rin with them just in case, so they likely won't be attacked by magic beasts.

From there, I transfer everyone to the island where the slaver's ship is being

anchored with [Gate]. All four people were surprised at their first transfer.

"Now then, leave your weapons to me. It will be strange if someone who should've been caught still has their weapons, don't you agree?"

As all four people obediently hand me their weapons, I put them temporarily in [Storage] and take out ropes and mouth gags in their place. I then bind the four with them. Of course, I tie them in such a way wherein it's possible for them to immediately untie those ropes.

I then call out the summoned beast which looks like small house mouse and have that mouse hide inside Ropp's pocket. I'll also know to some extent the situation onboard with this setup.

I use [Mirage] for the final touches and change myself into one of the three that I've sent to Yuuron, the thin baldie. ...This guy, by elimination, has the closest physique to mine...

"What do you think?"

"Exactly the same..... As expected of the King-sama, you are amazing....."

Ropp gives me his straightforward impression. I project the remaining two to my left and right in the same way with [Mirage].

The four of them bite at their own gags, and I make the illusions of Fatty and Lanky carry swords while standing behind them. It should look like as if the four of them are being threatened and taken away with this.

"What will you do, Rin? Would you like to be caught in the same way?"

"I'll decline that. I'll just keep watch so no one escapes from the ship"

Pola raises both her hands in a rolling pose. Alright, shall we then head to the slaver's ship?

A ship is floating on the north bank of the island below a steep rock cliff while making sure to hide in the darkness.

Two boats are tied on a nearby beach. Near those boats are four men grilling fish while minding the bonfire. Three of the four people are slaves.

Those three robust men are probably battle slaves. The remaining one has protruding snaggleteeth on his lower jaw. He is somehow similar to a Kansai

performer. We then start approaching these guys after leaving Rin and Pola behind in the forest.

"Ooh. Good job today as well. Four at once? You did your best, didn't you?"

The man with snaggleteeth notices us and frivolously steps up toward us with a loose smile.

That man with snaggleteeth goes around us once while he appraises the four people tied by the ropes.

"Two gold coins for men, five gold coins for women. I'd say they cost this much"

"That's fine. Give us the money"

"Huh? You ain't gonna be haggling today?"

"We are in a bit of a rush"

Or rather, I may be exposed if I speak too much. However, did he just say 2 gold and 5 gold coins? The total cost will approximately be 200,000 and 500,000. Are they buying other's' lives for this much? These guys.

Later, they will probably sell them several times the price to a rich person. I receive the gold coins from the man with snaggleteeth who raises an unpleasant laughter. Then, I turn around and get away from that place.

I will end up beating him if I see that face once again.

I return to the forest where Rin is waiting and cancel [Mirage] returning to my original figure.

I expand my eyesight with [Long Sense], watch the four people as they finish eating the fishes, put a pair of captured adventurers on each boat, and start rowing off the coast.

"First of all, I guess I can say that infiltration has succeeded"

"I hope they get in touch with the other captured adventurers later though. How many people have you said that died?"

"There seems to be ten people after confirming it with Rerisha-san. Apparently, those whose guild cards that had been discovered in pools of blood were treated as dead. Umm, I think there was "four men and six women"?"

"There are a lot of women"

"Isn't it because they are easier to catch and they can easily fetch more money? Every one of them seemed to be amateurs with a black rank"

I heard that rookie bullying is also present in the guild. The bullies forcibly make the newcomers join a party and use them as decoys to lure out magic beasts. They even take more than half of the newcomers' rewards as the so-called tuition fee. Of course, the rookies who had that done to them leave the guild and reach the point where they hunt solo to avoid further troubles. It's a disgusting story.

There's always someone who looks down on beginners and newcomers in every world despite that they themselves were originally newcomers too.

Anyway, I hope all 10 people are safe. I don't believe they've killed them because they can sell them as slaves. To call them "safe" because they haven't been killed, it just means it's yet to change.

I synchronize my vision with the house mouse I've made Rob hold onto. I can see the dim deck of the ship. It seems like they got on it safely.

Furthermore, my hearing has also been synchronized and I hear voices around them. By the way, synchronization only goes this far. I had tried to synchronize the taste once but it became a terrible experience. I didn't want to know the taste of insects.

"Javel-sama. I have four people today"

"Hoooh? Aren't they quite good? Both men and women are young. They will likely sell at a high price"

The snaggletooth, who brought the four along, approaches the plump man who is on the deck rubbing his hands. Apparently, this guy is the slave merchant.

He is wearing a woolen jacket, a silken obi wherein a dagger decorated with gold is hanging, a pair of curved shoes bending forward and something that looks like an unbalanced turban on his head. He looks like a fat bogus Sinbad the Sailor.

Javel, they say, huh? I'd say he's a slave merchant from the Sandora Kingdom in eight or nine cases out of ten. And an illegal one to boot.

The Sandora Kingdom tentatively prohibits the kidnapping of other people to turn them into slaves even if they recognize slavery. Speaking of slaves, the people who become one are those who've committed crimes and those who've desired to be sold at their own volition.

However, that's only their official stance and there are many ways one can fall down to be a slave. People who corner others through debts or make others commit a crime on purpose to drop the victim into slavery. There are even those who kidnap people without even batting an eye.

Nothing a person says will be recognized once that person has been degraded to the level of slave whether it's because he knew what he was doing or was talked into it. He won't be released from being a slave even if he makes noise about being kidnapped or being deceived.

"Come on, this way! Don't be slow!"

Snaggleteeth is pulling the tied up Ropp and is leading the four people into the ship.

All four people are pushed into a narrow jail located in the bilge, the lowest level of the ship. There are two jails, one for men and one for women. Inside those are four men, and six women. They must be the kidnapped adventurers. Ropp's group is divided as well and put in their respective jails.

Ropp, Clause, Fran and Ion turn to ask the names of everyone who has been placed in their respective jails together with them after confirming that snaggleteeth has left the bilge.

I was then able to confirm that all of them are safe since the kidnapped adventurers have told their names.

Some of them don't feel good due to them losing their physical strength, but it looks like they didn't receive any violent treatment for the time being.

"It looks like everyone is all right. If that's true, I should be able to easily resolve this situation if I move all of them with [Gate] right now"

"You should allow these kids to stack up experience as well"

"Experience, you say... Even if it's only about escaping from the ship?"

"Ara, it's an important experience to prevent enemies from finding you out, to

be watchful of your surroundings, and to act after confirming the state of affairs to a certain extent, you know?"

Rin smiles while talking. Well, she might be right.

Ropp's group begin their preparations to escape while being inside the bilge. I've previously given each of them two items.

The first item is a small folding knife with 5 cm edge. Naturally, it's not just an ordinary folding knife. They've been made from the crystal fragments of the Frazes. It's a knife that can cut through anything. It will be a simple matter for them to escape if they have those knives.

The second item is a measuring tape about a meter length. If they pull it out and stretch it, they will be able to use it as a whip capable of applying the effects of [Paralysis] bestowed through [Enchant]. (TLC: A tape? seriously?) (Airs: Measuring tape he said... will it hurt for sure that one) (BlackSwordsman1721: I've seen my fair share of weird weapons, but a measuring tape?) (Kilroy: Mouth gags and now measuring tape? Touya sure does have some weird hobbies)

There are battle slaves inside this ship as well. There's no chance for those four to succeed if they fight fair and square. Furthermore, even those battle slaves might have been made as subordinates against their own will.

Ropp's group immediately cuts down the locks with the knives and slip out quietly from the jail so that they won't make any noise.

"Now then, it'll soon be my turn to act too, right? Doing so should make it easy for those kids to move too"

"Have fun"

I jump out of the forest after cutting off the synchronization with the house mouse and after Rin sends me off. Then, I extract Brynhildr while standing still above the slaver's ship, load the cylinder with weak [Explosion] bullets instead of paralysis bullets, and charge them with bursting bombs (the weak version).

"Now then, shall I begin?"

I, having decided to aim at the mast of the slaver's ship, then pull the trigger of Brynhildr.

Chapter 196: The Slave Merchant, and Coming Home in the Morning

Raising the loud sounds of explosion, the foundation of the main mast was blown off. At first, it naturally made creaking sounds before it started to collapse. It then flatly fell down with a powerful force. Those who were standing on the deck started panicking. That response was expected due to them seeing the mast falling into the sea from the deck.

"Wha-what just happened ! ? "

"I don't know! An explosion has suddenly...!"

The slave merchant named Javel jumps out of the door leading to the deck. I then descend onto the bow of the ship and expose my figure under the moonlight.

"Wh-Who's that?!"

"I'm His Majesty The Sovereign King of Brunhild, Mochizuki Touya"

I understand everyone present on the deck has their breaths taken away. The slave merchant's eyes are swimming around restlessly while standing among them. He looks unbecomingly flustered. It seems he's becoming aware that he's doing something bad here by himself.

"This island is the territory of Brunhild. I've come to ask you to stop your arbitrary trade "

"A-arbitrary trade ?!"

"Do not play dumb with me. I know that you kidnap rookie adventurers from the dungeons and try to sell them as slaves"

The slave merchant is having a cramp on his mouth. Cold sweat is pouring down from his forehead further increasing his suspicious behavior.

"Truth be hold, our country is a small one and we haven't clearly established things like laws and punishments yet, you see. We didn't have such bad people there. At most, it's the travelers who are acting violently on our streets. That's why I'm reflecting on the current situation today"

It wouldn't end with just Ropp's group being sold off as slaves if I hadn't gone to the dungeon with Rin at that time. A lot more victims would have likely appeared afterward. More than that, we might have not even become aware of those affairs.

I understand that punishment is the deterrent for crimes, but is it due to me bidding farewell to that tepid life? I cannot deny that I have been slightly thinking that [I still wouldn't go that far]. It's because I've come across Yumina's magic eyes that there aren't any fundamentally bad people around us thus far.

However, the crimes should be punished in their own ways and there's a need to explicitly point that out.

I suppose I better think of those quickly. For now, should I ask for them to be created after I've checked the laws in Belfast as well?

Various people started mingling with each other and unexpected incidents even started to appear a lot after the dungeons had been discovered. Do I have no choice but to deal with them separately? But first things first. I should resolve the situation before me.

Hmm? I can see four boats distancing themselves from the ship. Has Ropp's group escaped already? I guess I don't need to hold back now.

"Kuu, The Sovereign King shouldn't have been in this place! You guys, finish him!"

The three battle slaves unsheathe their curved blades and come slashing at me after the slave merchant Javel gives a command.

"Slip"

All three people loudly fell down on the deck together. The curved blades that they've just released became stuck into the deck itself.

They try to stand up, but they fall down on the same spot again. Mmn? I wonder, is the effect of [Slip] seems to last longer than before? I feel that it was rather short back then... Is this increase also an effect of [Divinity] perhaps?

"Wha-what are you doing!? Quit messing around and dispose of him quickly!"

The slaves start grasping their heads with their hands in pain after hearing

Javel's scream. He is causing them pain through the [Collar of Subordination].

I fire a single shot using Brynhildr at the feet of Javel. The slave trader is blown off with a small burst which had the weak [Explosion] being invoked by me.

"Bueeeee ! ? "

The fatty Javel, having been unsightly thrown at the deck, draws back with blood running from his nose.

"F-forgive me! It's only an impulse that.... !"

"Suppose that you, with that so-called "impulse" of yours, have been degrading people who didn't even commit any crime into slaves, and have been treating others as prey only for the sake of gaining profits as if it's a natural thing to do, is there any point to forgive you? "

"He-help me..."

"Do you even believe that those people you've made into slaves are going to save you?"

I don't know what this person did before but he shouldn't be a decent guy seeing what he has been doing.

Is it futile to even speak to him? I change the bullets loaded in Brynhildr into paralysis ones and shoot them into the slave merchant.

Javel stops moving after raising a strange shriek.

I shoot the slipping battle slaves with paralysis bullet as well. Probably, they are only being made to obey, but I feel that their crime will change accordingly depending on whether they are unwilling or are helping this guy with pleasure. They are even more troublesome than Javel. I will leave them for now since I can't possibly judge whether it's fine to release them from being slaves.

The remaining sailors on the deck have also been paralyzed rendering them unfit for battle.

"Search. Is there still anyone inside the ship? "

'Searching... Search Finished. The number of people onboard is three. All are paralyzed and have collapsed'

Fumu. They must've been defeated when Ropp's group was escaping. In that case, these should be all of them, right? A total of 20 people. It seems half of them are slaves.

Are? That reminds me, where is the snaggleteeth which brought Ropp's group here?

"Fugyaaa !"

I've heard a small shriek from the shore so I try looking at that area with [Long Sense]. Upon doing that, I could see snaggleteeth collapsed while raising some smoke, and Rin waving her small hand while facing this direction. That snaggleteeth might have escaped at some point. It seems Rin has brought him down though.

Ropp's group has disembarked as well and are going towards where Rin is. Shall I now put things in order here?

I transfer every single person aboard this ship to the beach while looking at the fellows from the knight order coming from the forest.

I take the slave merchant Javel, his underlings, sailors, and battle slaves to the knight order after having all of them tied up. For now, we should leave them inside the underground jail. I should consult about this matter with Kousaka-san later.

"It looks like everything is in order"

"Though there is still a lot of follow-up work remaining"

I respond to Rin while descending onto the beach and looking back at the slaver's ship. That reminds me, what should I do with that slave merchant's ship? Would it be fine to confiscate it in favor of the country? Though I wouldn't likely be able to sell it as is, seeing as I've completely destroyed its mast.

"A~ano, Your Majesty! The kidnapped adventurers are all okay!"

Ropp comes reporting to me, but I'm more or less aware of the situation since I've been seeing everything through the house mouse. I cast [Recovery] on the adventurers who've lost their strength, move them to [Silver Moon] with everyone else, and rent them rooms. I guess it may be one of the apologies I would've to make.

I intentionally give Ropp's group about 10 potions as thanks for helping out. It also won't be futile for them to just hold onto them.

I then bid farewell to everyone after having decided that conducting the detailed questioning will be done the another day.

After this, I go to the adventurer's guild, speak to Rerisha-san about details of this incident, and ask her to reissue the guild cards of the rookie adventures who were being treated as dead.

"We, as with the guild, also regret about this current incident. In the end, the guild is only a mediator for clients and we can't punish adventurers. It's not possible for us to officially do anything beyond cutting all transactions with people whose qualifications as adventurers have been revoked"

"...officially ? "

"This talk is only between us. The shadow corps attached to the guild may move in cases where it's judged that harm has been done to the guild. They might've been dispatched here if His Majesty didn't take measures this time"

The guild's shadow corps, eh? Don't tell me they are similar to an assassination guild of some sort. I've just heard something quite scary. The adventurer's guild exists around the world. It's said that there are several guild masters like Rerisha-san that governs it, but one of them is apparently the leader. That person doesn't seem to want to be involved very often though.

I've entrusted the follow-up of those adventurers who have been caught to the guild for the time being. Both Rin and I then leave that place.

It has gotten really late, all right. I take out the smartphone, turn it on, and look at the time. Uwaa, hasn't a lot of time already passed by since midnight?

I'm getting quite hungry, but I can't possibly ask Clare-san to make something this late at night. Shall I go eat outside then? I do have some grilled skewers and other things in [Storage]. Besides, the guild bar is just right next door.

"What's Rin going to do? I could treat you if you want"

"Right, shall I take you up on your honorable offer then? I haven't been able to eat outside lately"

I enter the guild's bar next door while taking along Rin and Pola. There might

be people there who know me, so I cover myself with a coat and hood just in case.

The interior has been made considerably spacious. There is an open table for four people further inside, so we sit down there for now.

I order a set of fried chicken with herbs and a fruit juice since I can't drink alcohol. Rin, on the other hand, orders pasta, green salad and just a little bit of wine.

Before long, the waitress brings the food, and we begin eating it as if we're greedily devouring it since we aren't able to endure the hunger any longer. The food is adequately delicious. If we're talking about the visiting the town's center, I've eaten a lot of times at [Silver Moon], but this type of food is quite good as well.

The adventurers are all laughing, making noise, drinking, and enjoying themselves throughout the bar. It seems that even this bar started prospering after the dungeons had been discovered. Its atmosphere is hard to dislike, though drunkards are still as bad as it gets.

We, having finished eating, leave the bar. It's already two past midnight when I confirm the time. Most of the shops are now closing down at this late hour. There is also nothing that resembles a pleasure district in Brunhild as well. The nights in this country are relatively quiet.

It seems that propositions stating that we should build the establishments like brothels and casinos like in other capitals have come to Naito-ossan from the merchants, but I will leave that to him. I myself think that it's fine if none of those places are present though. Those places won't ever be welcomed if they become bothersome.

Naturally, it'll be necessary to keep a watchful eye so that injustice or greedy businesses won't take place. It wouldn't be a joke if Brunhild becomes a breeding ground for evil before we're even aware of it.

I'm told that there are some places where slaves are put to work in brothels in the Sandora Kingdom...

"Is it futile to hope that any sort of slavery is abolished...?"

"You know, I think it'll more or less disappear if you crush the Sandora Kingdom, I think?"

"No-no, I didn't mean it like that"

I retort to what Rin said. Is she drunk? Her face is a little red.

I hear it's true that slavery is disappearing even if things appear as they are currently. There were great countries like Sandora and Yuuron who accepted slavery until recently, so I think it should be a good thing that one of those almost stopped existing.

The people in Yuuron weren't ruling slaves with the [Collar of Subordination]. It looks like the slaves there weren't handled as cruelly as in other places due to how the slavery contract had been built upon.

"You see, the Sandora Kingdom is a country built by the chief of a pretty small tribe who was by slaves and who was able to defeat the other tribes living in the desert. Their first king was apparently called [The Slave King]"

The slave king, huh? It feels as if he himself was a slave, isn't it? Or could it be that he really was a slave originally? If that's true, then it would have been nice of him if he abolished slavery after the country was founded.

I suppose removing it would be hard when I think of how deeply the influence of slavery is rooted in that country.

Rin and I walk on the road to the castle because she wants to feel the night wind. Four people from the knight order were guarding the castle gates at the time when we'd arrived there. They demanded us to introduce ourselves and set up their spears after discovering us through the darkness, but they immediately lowered those with a relieved looks when they had understood who we are.

We enter the castle after thanking them for their hard work. Ripple, who is an "artifact creature" and who's acting as the security camera for the interior of our castle, jumps out from the picture decorating the wall as we arrive at the entrance hall.

"Master! It's an emergency! Danger is approaching masters' body! Quickly prepare your... Aaah, I'm already too late... "

"What-what, what the heck happened?"

Ripple made a cramped smile and her face quickly became pale just when I was thinking why was she panicking and saying so many things. She then vanished on her spot as if she was never there after leaving behind [May you be fortunate in war]. What's that? What's with this panic?

"Welcome home, Touya-san. You are quite late, aren't you?"

"Aah, Yumina. I'm... home..."



My voice reflectively becomes smaller as I look up at the voice greeting me from up the stairs.

Yumina, Rue, Elsie, Lindsey, Yae, and Hilda are over there standing in full force and are gazing down on us. I wonder, wouldn't it be a full gathering of my

fiancees if Suu was with them?

Every one of them is smiling, but their eyes are not. Huh? Aren't they looking angry...?

"Uh, Uhm.... What's wrong?" (Touya)

"We have a small matter to discuss. This way, please. Ah, you're included too Rin-san" (Yumina)

"Eh? Ah, okay"(Rin)

Rin answers even though it feels as if she doesn't understand why. Yae and Hilda descend the stairs and seize me from both sides. Hey? What's this? This treatment of [taking] me doesn't seem to match what has been said, is it?!

"Excuse me, Touya-sama. That's what has been decided based on the facts" (Hilda)

"Well-well-well, Touya-dono. Resign yourself"(Yae)

"No-no-no! What's with this talk?!" (Touya)

A lot of question marks[?!?!?!?!] start to appear inside my head one after another while I'm being dragged by these two people.

Ah-anoo... Hey, what have I done this time... ?

Chapter 197: The 8th Bride, and the Snow Mouse

"We've noticed that something has changed between the two of you since a while ago"

Yumina, who's sitting at the table, begins to talk. Rin also sits with everyone else at the same table, however, I'm the only one being made to sit in seiza on the floor. Don't you think that this is cruel? It appears I've grown accustomed to it already. Ha-ha-ha. Heck, what time is it that I am being forced into a seiza?

"Rin-san loves Touya-san as well, right?" (Yumina)

"Yes. I'm quite pleased with him in my own way and I think I want to be married to him for the rest of my life, even though my passion for him doesn't reach your level" (Rin)

"That is....."(Yumina)

"Of course I'm not setting my sights on the legacy of Babylon or his status, you know? Moreover, I do find him to be a charming person and I've come to like him as an individual. That is not a lie"(Rin)

Rin, having interrupted Yumina, ties what she herself says together. She then stops while looking straight at Yumina's eyes.

Yumina's gaze eventually softens and she shows a smile on her face.

"I understand. I approve of Rin becoming Touya-san's bride. What does everyone else think?"

Yumina looks at the others sitting at the table. The first one to raise her hand is Yae.

"I, myself, have no problem with it as well"(Yae)

"I-I too don't have any problem"(Lindsey)

"I also don't think that would be a problem" (Elsie)

The twin sisters, having followed after Yae, timidly raise their hands. The remaining two also raise their hands in a hurry after seeing that.

"This one also doesn't have any objections" (Hilda)

"I-I am of the same"(Rue)

Both Rue and Hilda haven't had many interactions with Rin. Nevertheless, I think it's because they've spoken and acted together a few times that they understand her personality.

What I meant by interactions is that Rin has been in this group longer than they are. I couldn't have predicted in any way that the situation would develop like that.

"I don't think Suu would've opposed this even if she was here at the moment. Rin-san, please treat us well from now on"(Yumina)

"Yes. Please take care of me"(Rin)

They both exchange a soft handshake and smile at each other. It feels like there won't be room for me to interject anymore. No, it's not like I have a reason to be particularly opposed to this situation. Rin is cute, dependable, and mature emotionally-wise.

I think if I assume that Yumina is the mediator for everyone, Rin will act as the sub-leader to them.

However, the number of brides is finally eight, right? I'm one step away from completion. Or rather, I wonder whether this situation wouldn't have turned out like this if that foolish professor didn't say too much?

It feels like Yumina and the others are eager to quickly decide on the nine fiancées... Probably before I get caught by some strange woman or something like that, I think? Though it doesn't seem like they're deciding thoughtlessly seeing as they didn't accept Pam.

"Rin is now one of us as one of Touya-san's fiancées, our comrade, and a kindred soul"(Yumina)

"Eh? Ah, tha-that's right I guess"(Rin)

"And... where have the two of you been before this?"(Yumina)

"Fuee ? "(Rin)

A silly sound escapes from Rin. She becomes surrounded by the other five before she could even respond and is being pressured with their silent smiles.

"Wa-wait a moment. Aren't you girls misunderstanding something?" (Rin)

"Till this late at night, and furthermore, only just the two of you... What other reasons could there be?" (Yae)

Pola, who's frantically appealing to Yae as if saying [I was there too], is entirely being ignored by everyone who in turn are surrounding Rin. Furthermore, the twins are excessively pressing themselves into Rin.

"I-is it by chance..."

"H-have you done it ?!"

""Haaa?!""

Both of mine and Rin's voices resound in unison. By saying "have you done it"... do they mean "that"? The faces of both sides of those who said it and to whom it's said are getting red.

"W-w-wha-what are you saying?! There's no way that happened!"

The panicking Rin denies it while her face looks like it's boiling. Oh-ya? What a surprisingly innocent reaction... I'd say this reaction, in comparison to her 600 years of age, is appropriate for her appearance, right?

The other side, having seen this reaction, conversely calms down.

I thereupon explain to everyone the events of this evening in place of Rin who can't say anything and who's about to blow up.

"I understand the situation. But, shouldn't you have at least sent a message if you're going to be this late?"

"Uuh, sorry about that..."

"Shouldn't you be able to contact us if you convey your thoughts through Kohaku-chan's group?"

"Ah"

Come to think of it, that's correct. I've been running around without even realizing that. Surely, I didn't send even a single message before it got this late. They were probably worried in a lot of ways when I didn't come back home.

I, speaking for myself, didn't think there was even a need to worry, but I guess I got carried away there for a bit.

It's not my intention to cause the people I hold dear any worry or trouble. I

should take that into consideration in the future.

"I don't know what we would do if we were left behind, by you..." (Elsie)
"That is so. Tell us if you're going to do any magic experiments and when..."
(Yae)

"The vacant house has burned entirely, hasn't it...?" (Lindsey)

Elsie, Yae, and Lindsey are sighing out of tiredness. Is that what you're worried about?! It's just that, I've thought I could control a flame ball like some sort of guided missile, but I was mistaken.

I wonder if that's how a husband who returned home after getting drunk feels like when he is being scolded by his wife? ... Hm? Am I not becoming a henpecked husband for real?

I don't really feel like becoming a [Shut up and follow me]-type of a domineering husband in particular. Believing that Yumina and the rest are frequently getting angry while thinking of me, I can't really oppose them. Their relationships as fiancées are good. They haven't fought even once, and it looks like I would incur divine punishment if I complain about it.

"In any case, make sure you contact us beforehand if you're going to be late from now on. We're okay as long as you can do that. Do you understand?"

"Roge~er....."

I was preached by each one of them after this, and when I was finally released I then collapsed on my bed. It was almost dawn by then. I was made to promise a lot of things, but I can't really help it since I'm paying for my mistakes.

How should I say this...? Individually, they're cute and gentle and it calms my heart when we're together. But I don't feel like I can win against them when they all come together. The initiative is taken away from me completely. I guess I'll just have to accept this as well.

Aah, I'm feeling sleepy already. Guu.

====Scene-
Change=====

I go to Kousaka-san first thing in the morning after waking up and explain him

the events of the previous day. I hear that he will immediately put forth a rough draft of sorts, basing it on the laws of Belfast. This world, being on the level of Edo Period, has light punishments like exile next to death penalties. If it's the Edo Period, the banishment would've been applied.

Other countries seem to have a forced labor in mines as punishment, but sadly, there are no mines in our country.

It seems various troubles will certainly appear if capital punishment is abolished. It would be a problem if they become exiled and start some troubles in another country. I'm wondering if the future problems would really disappear if the death penalty was applied.

It can be said that the [Collar of Subordination] may be a suitable magic tool 《Artifact》 to punish criminals in a certain sense as long as it's properly applied only to the people committing serious crimes. I wonder, can't I modify it?

It seems the slave merchant Javel will be sentenced to death if we match our laws to that of Belfast as of the moment. Although I can say it's natural when his past misdeeds are taken into account.

The problem is what to do with the other sailors and slaves. I can have Yumina inspect the true essence of the slaves with her magic eyes though. It's then fine to remove the collar if there's no issue.

In any case, I head to town towards [Silver Moon] mainly because I'm worried about the adventurers whom I helped yesterday. I hope they didn't get any strange trauma though.

Upon arriving at [Silver Moon], I talk with the adventurers who have been caught and feel relieved because, fortunately, the ten people have decided to continue being adventurers. I hope they will be more careful when exploring from now on. There is no need to rush since it's good to become stronger slowly. If you can stronger bit by bit, it will be good for you.

Everyone heads to the guild at once upon hearing that their cards will be reissued. If I made a small mistake... I feel like apologizing when I think of that.

I decided to have lunch here because I didn't have breakfast (Since I was sleeping until noon). I invited Ropp's group of four too while I was at it.

Although they held back at first, they felt sorry and took their seats when I quickly ordered lunch for five people from Mika-san.

"Oh, so there is a dungeon in the village where you've lived?"
"It's not at the same level of the dungeons here though. It's more like a small cave, but there's certainly some kind of ruin inside. We've entered there ever since we were kids to play as adventurers"

Isn't it dangerous to be "playing as adventurers" since you were just kids back then? Monsters like wolves might've settled in.

"We've encountered the monsters like a wolves and big bats a couple of times, but the four of us have exterminated them. Therefore, we had a little confidence but.... we've learned how fortunate we have been after coming here."

The swordswoman Fran mortifyingly said so. As she has said, wolves are quite different from goblins and kobolds. The latter two will use tools unlike the former. Doesn't that mean that Ropp and Fran coped up with those blue rank adventurers even though they felt scared? I wonder if those kids are showing some promise.

"Well, don't push yourself, only do things what you can do steadily and learn from your mistakes. Also, don't get sweet talked. You see, there's a backstory when it comes to sweet talking. Beautiful flowers have thorns, and there's nothing more expensive than what's free"

The four of them nod obediently. Well, I think they've learned their lesson. They should've questioned why other adventures came up to them and talked about good hunting grounds. Was there any benefit for them to talk about it even though their profits would've decreased? Doubt others somewhere along those lines, but don't doubt them too much.

"Umm, your majesty. It's about this kid but....."
"Ha? ? "

Ion, the magician, places the white house mouse I've summoned on her hands. Ah, I forgot about that.

Hmmm, I'm still worried about these kids. Shall I leave him with them? If I'm

not mistaken, this summoned magic beast is called a [Snow Rat]. It looks quite strong in a group, but I can only see it as a house mouse.

Well, I don't know if there are house mice in this world though.

It seems this mouse has the skill [Danger Sense]. Those four can prevent themselves from being caught in a surprise attack if they have this guy. They also should be able to probably predict a crisis and escape.

"I will entrust this kid to you. It's quite smart and can sense danger, so I believe it will be useful in your explorations. It can also contact me so it's fine to ask him for help in case something happens"

Ion nods with a smile to my words. It seems she likes this guy. Well, I hope you get along. I will be in trouble though if I receive a lot of thoughtless messages.

I part with the four after the meal. The snow mouse, which is on top of Ion's head, cheekily waves its hand at me. That guy, isn't he actually pretty smart...?

Come to think of it, there's one thing I became curious about in the previous conversation. It's the cave where the four entered to play since they were kids. I think it has a ruin that might resemble the ruins of Babylon.

If I remember correctly, weren't they from Pyuton village in Regulus? I search for it in the map, and it's not that far. I've never thought it was that close... I wonder if searching birds might've missed it.

Ah, is it possible they are blind at night that they couldn't see inside the cave? No, I might be mistaken. It seems most birds are just as efficient as humans are at night. However, they don't act at night simply because they can't find food.

In that case, did they simply overlook it? Well, whatever, I will find out once I get there.

I tried to leave immediately using [Fly], but before that, I sent my thoughts to Kohaku and asked him to convey my message. Afterall, they did get angry just yesterday. I want to avoid being lectured for two days in a row.

Well then, shall I go and check it out?

Chapter 198: The Cave of the ruins, and an Attribute of Clumsiness

Pyuton village is located in the southwestern part of Regulus. It's a quiet village in the mountains near Belfast that doesn't stand out, and it feels like an idyllic rural village.

It may be troublesome if I'm discovered by the villagers, so I decide to lay low in the nearby forest for the time being, and search for the [Cave] with my smartphone. Thereupon, I find its location slightly away from the village.

"It's surprisingly close. I guess that's expected since children make it their playground"

The cave is halfway up the mountain in the village's outskirt. It's certainly small. The entrance is so small that only one person can go through at a time. It looks like a tunnel from a distance, but it's wider than I've expected once I enter it.

Or rather, it feels like there's a hole to the ruins inside the mountain through its side. It was probably shaped like this because different passages had been blocked by earth, sand and rocks.

A big bat attacks me after I advance for a while, but I defeat it with no effort. Hmmm, aren't they weak enough to be opponents for kids? Of course, it might be hard to defeat that creature without using a magic skill or a bow, but it probably won't cause any serious injury.

A black cube comes to my sight after I have advanced straight ahead. Is one side about seven meters wide? The surface feels like a chilly marble on touch. There is no mistake. It's a Babylon ruin.

"Now then... there must be something like a switch to go inside....."

I examine every corner of the cube, but there's nothing that resembles a switch. There is no groove either, like that time with Monica.... What's going

on?

There may be a wall where I can pass through if I touch it, but I can't get through even though I've touched various places from the sides to the top.

"Ummmu..... What's going on?....."

Is there no other way but to use [Modeling] to open a hole? No, I feel like I would lose in that case. I would like to find it on my own but.....

"Ah not this" "Neither is that" – I tried everything, but I couldn't find anything that could resemble an entrance.

"Ummm, what's going on with this thing? I tried all directions, even from above.....Ah"

No way. From below?

As I was thinking "If that suits your fancy", I cautiously dug deep into the ground in a way that the cube wouldn't fall by using earth magic. I then dove into the hole to check the bottom of the cube.

...Found it. The bottom area looks like the side of a dice with one pip due to a circular ditch at the center.

"I should probably be able to enter from here....."

When I touch the circular spot with my hand, I get pulled in, and lifted up into the cube.

I look around, and the usual six pillars surrounding the transfer formation are there. Each gem of each attribute is dimly shining in the absence of brightness.

However, what's different that usual is that the transfer formation is on the side and not on the floor. The six pillars that hold the magic gems are also stretching from the side.

"Wait a minute. Isn't that supposed to be the bottom in the first place? In that case, I've entered from the side"

I think they clearly made a mistake when this cube was installed. There's no reason to construct the entrance from below. Speaking of a dice, the face with two pips should be at the bottom if the face with one pip is at the side. If they

have mistakenly made the entrance in the area where the one pip is, then the area with two pips should be on the side. Otherwise, there won't be a way to go in.

"Good grief! Make sure to install it properly....."

Despite my grumblings, I pour my magic into the stone pillars in turns while keeping my body afloat with [Fly]. I then stand on the side of the wall that contains the transfer formation. This somehow feels strange. It's not like I'm a ninja. "Ninja arts, wall standing technique!" Just kidding.

I pour non-attribute magic power into the transfer formation and I eventually get wrapped with a dazzling vortex of light. The transfer has been successfully completed.

"Welcome to Babylon's-waaaa!?"

"Uguuu!?"

I, having thought that the vortex of light has calmed down, suddenly receive a headbutt on my belly. Gu, what a strong surprise attack!

Apparently someone... say, it must be the manager here, but it seems she thrusted into me after impulsively running here and had tripped.

"Waaaaaaa, I'm sorry ~ssu! I was so excited with the thought of greeting you that I ended up headbutting you ~ssu!"

"I understand. I understand, so, first of all, get off me!"

The girl is fumbling her words right after ramming herself into me and dropping us both to the ground. It looks like I am being pushed down by her. This is a bit embarrassing. On top of that, this kid has something (TL: breast) that's quite good even though it's not as big as Flora's, making the situation even more uncomfortable.

"I'll get up quickly ~ssu. To-tototo!"

"What are you doing.....?"

The young girl, who quickly stood up, staggers and her right leg that's holding all of her weight accurately steps on my crotch!

"Oguoaaaa!?"

Kka...! oOooo, Kwuuu-uu.....! !

I faint in agony. What else can I do other than crouching and rolling on the ground? This is the greatest damage that I've ever received since I came to this world.....!

This one hurts way more than a Frazee's attack....k! W-will r-recovery m-magic w-work...? N-no. I-in this case, h-how about [Refresh]? Uaa, it's useless! I can't concentrate any m-magic power...! It hurts, it really hurts!

"Excuse me..... Are you alright ~ssu?"

"T-there... no way... alright....."

I bang my fists on the ground without holding back while enduring the pain coming from my lower abdomen. I'm sweating a lot and my breath is being distorted. Really..... Severe..... I'm..... powerless.....

The pain eventually goes away as I stagger to get up. The girl makes a pose similar to a salute with a snap afterward. Is she shorter than Shizuka? She then opens her mouth with a big smile.

"Then, let me introduce myself again. Welcome to Babylon's [Warehouse]! I'm the terminal managing this place. I'm called [Rilulu Palshee], but please call me[Palshee] ~ssu"

"It's yo————u!!!"

"Fueeeeeeeeeeeeeee!?"

So this fellow is the manager of [Warehouse]!! She let the [Jewel of Immortality] fall which in turn caused the start of Takeda's downfall and lost the [Imbibe Demon's bracelet] and the [Bracelet of defense] that also caused the coup d'etat in the empire.

She seems to be quite clumsy like the other Babylon numbers had said, but I've found it out with my own body!

"Sit down there for a while! I'll have to scold you!"

"W-why ~ssu?! Why ~suu?! Why am I getting scolded ~ssu!?"



Isn't she aware of how much trouble she has caused? I need to explain it to her to make her understand.

I told her about the people that suffered a lot because of the magic tools 《Artifacts》 she had dropped, and I thoroughly explained to her how much trouble I got dragged into because of her.

"Are you sorry for what you did?"

"~ssu..... I'm sorry for troubling you ~ssu. I've never thought that it would cause so much trouble ~ssu"

Palshee dejectedly drops her shoulders. Her pupils are facing down and her gray hair that was made into a ponytail is shaking a little. Did I go a little too far?

"What can I say, make sure to be careful from now on. Everyone from Babylon has been worrying about the current state of the [Warehouse]"

"Oyo? Have you met the others from Babylon beside me ~ssu?"

"That's just about it with the exception of the [Laboratory]. My introduction is late, but I'm Mochizuki Touya. The others have recognized me as their master"

"Hou-hou. Then, I'm obliged to approve you as the confirmed person ~ssu. Roger~ssu. From now on, Frame Number 26, code-named [Rilulu Palshee] will be transferred to you ~ssu. Please treat me well ~ssu, Master"

Palshee, having stood up energetically once more, quickly does a salute. What a fast switch. Did she really repent?

All the while, Palshee starts approaching me and moves her lips up close. Ah~, is this that pattern again?....

By the eighth time, I don't have the will to resist anymore. It's bound to happen either way. I give up on my feelings of reaching enlightenment, while my foot is getting stepped on by Palshee with all her weight.

"Ouuuuu...! Muguu!"

Her tongue enters my mouth as we join our lips, but it's not what I'm exclaiming about. My right foot is being crushed! This girl, having stood on her tiptoes in order to cover the difference in height, places her body weight on my right foot which is most definitely damaging it. My tip-toe is in serious pain!

Is her clumsy constitution that dreadful?! Can it even be called "clumsiness" by now?

"Registration complete ~ssu! Master's genes have been memorized ~ssu. The

ownership of [Warehouse] has been transferred to Master from here onwards ~ssu! ... What's wrong ~ssu?"

Palshee inclines her head wondering why I'm rolling all over the place again. She's really not noticing why! She would definitely understand me if she got stepped on this bad! I roll all over the ground while holding my right foot. It might be wise to use [Shield] when I'm confronting this girl.

"In any case, I'll guide you through [Warehouse] ~ssu. This way ~ssu!"

Palshee runs away without a care in the world for my pain. Ah, she tripped. I wonder if this is natural for her?

I see an erected dome-shaped building as I come out of the overgrown shrub. It's not that large and is about the size of a detached house if I'm to describe its size. It also looks like an igloo, the house of eskimos built from compressed snow.

Upon entering through the hulking gates, I see a pure white room containing who knows how many rolling about white cubes with just the right size to sit on. They are somewhat 50 centimeters on one side. A single black monolith is standing in the center of the room.

"I imagined it would look more like a treasure-looking room since it's called [Warehouse], but...."

"The magic tools《artifacts》developed by the professor, her personal collection, money, raw materials, every kind of record, and everything else is being preserved in the basement ~ssu. Once, each of the outer walls got destroyed, but they've already been repaired ~ssu"

That's when the [Jewel of Immortality] and a lot of other things must've dropped from here. Good grief! What a troublesome story.

"One can summon items from the underground preservation warehouse with this machine ~ssu. E~tto..."

Palshee pours magic power into the monolith, and it starts to operate for some reason. One of the cubes that are lying on the floor falls straight down and a similar-looking cube rises from the ground in front of me.

Small letters have been written on the upper right corner of the surface of the

cube upon closer inspection. They're probably ancient Paruteno letters. Apparently, a set of numbers has been assigned to each cube.

The top of the cube slowly opens like a treasure box when Palshee touches it. Wow! A lot of gold coins are packed inside the cube.

"This box can't be opened by anyone except for master or myself ~ssu. For example, Professor Babylon herself wouldn't be able to open it either even if she tried~ssu"

I see. Is it possible that the key to the treasure has been transferred to me? Then that means, all of this is mine....? I guess I can use it as much as I like then.

I take out one gold coin from the box. It has a shape I haven't seen before.... No, I saw it once when I met End for the first time. It resembles the silver coin that he had. Then does that mean this is a Paruteno coin?

Isn't it natural when I think about it? This [Warehouse] itself is from 5000 years ago.

I can't use this money you know. Should I crush them and sell the metal....? I suppose that if I bring it to an antique shop they won't believe that it's from 5000 years ago because it's in perfect condition. They would've likely treated it as a fake.

"Oh that's right. Are the blueprints for the new frame gears in here?"
"Are you asking for the frame gears' blueprints ~ssu? It's here ~ssu. Ummm....."

The box with gold coins sinks to the floor when Palshee operates the monolith, and another box rises up instead. Both look the same so I can't tell one from the other.

I do what Palshee did earlier and touch the box. The top cover then slowly opens. Having looked at what's inside..... I then slowly close the cover.

"Palshee.....This-is wrong. You've made a mistake. Close it. Quickly"
"Eh? Ah, you're right ~ssu. I mistook the number ~ssu"

Palshee operates the monolith again, and the closed box in front of me sinks efficiently disappearing. I turn my back away from her because my face may have gotten all red.

Eh, what's in the box? It's just mere toys, you know?... The adult ones... That professor is truly detestable.....。

I open the box that comes up again, and this time there are a lot of cylinder-like objects. They look like diploma containers. I open one and try to take out its content.

This certainly seems like a blueprint. Illustrations of different parts crammed with fine details have been written in it. Of course, I can't read it, but I may be able to read it by using translation magic.

I don't get it because it's difficult to read!

However, we can finally create frame gears with a higher level than before. We couldn't temper with the existing frames as of the moment, but it's now possible to make one from scratch. In other words, we can now create specialized and personal machines.

Shall I make a frame gear with a tank for its lower half? I wonder if it's possible to deform it like that. Shall I try looking for various types of robots on the net? What else is there aside from the heavy armor type, the high mobility type, and the rear support type?

Just as I thought, I'm getting nervous. It can't be helped because I'm a man!